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Tough new standards proposed for exhaust emissions

The government is inviting public comment on proposed new emissions standards for vehicle exhaust.

The tougher standards would apply to vehicles when they are first registered for use on New Zealand roads. New vehicles would require a documentation check and used imports would be tested to ensure they meet the required standards. The new standards will not apply to vehicles already registered.

The proposals, announced in May by Associate Transport Minister Judith Tizard and Minister for Transport Safety Harry Duynhoven, are aimed at improving air quality and public health by reducing harmful vehicle emissions.

A 2002 Ministry of Transport report showed that around 400 people die prematurely each year from vehicle exhaust emissions.

Strengthening existing minimum vehicle emission standards is one of a package of measures the government is introducing to improve the environment. Other measures include promoting cleaner diesel fuel and the introduction of visible smoke checks as part of the warrant of fitness test.

‘Encouraging newer vehicle technologies not only improves air quality, but means that vehicles will generally be more fuel efficient and this can help reduce greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide,’ said the ministers.

Many countries, such as Japan and the United States, are updating their vehicle exhaust emissions standards to take advantage of

improved emission control technologies and the availability of cleaner fuels. The new standards proposed for vehicles entering the New Zealand fleet will ensure that New Zealand benefits from the advances in technology and emissions standards introduced overseas.

Details of the proposed new standards are outlined in the draft *Vehicle Exhaust Emissions Rule (2007)*, available at www.landtransport.govt.nz/consultation/vehicle-exhaust-emissions.

Submissions on the Rule close on 9 July 2007. The final Rule is scheduled to come into force on 1 January 2008.

New Walking school bus resource kit aims to get kiwi kids moving

Getting children safely to school on their feet is easier than ever with the recent launch of a new 'one-stop shop' *Walking school bus resource kit*.

The new kit – available free from Land Transport NZ – contains everything parents and caregivers, teachers and others need to help get a walking school bus under way, including tips and guidelines, brochures and posters, stickers and certificates for children.

Land Transport NZ Chief Executive Wayne Donnelly says the walking school bus kits are aimed at increasing the number of children getting safely to and from school under their own steam.

'More walking means better fitness and health, less money spent on petrol, reduced energy use and fewer vehicle emissions, less congestion at the school gate and more social interaction for children,' Wayne said.

Results from the most recent Ministry of Transport household travel survey show that

the proportion of primary school children walking to school has dropped from 42 percent in 1990 to 27 percent now, while the proportion who are driven to school has jumped from 31 percent to 52 percent. At some schools, nearly 90 percent of students are driven.

'We know there is a lot of enthusiasm in our communities to turn those figures around and get children moving again. Thanks to the efforts of volunteer parents, teachers and others, we had 60,000 students and 170 schools take part in Walk to School Week earlier this year, and that kind of energy and enthusiasm is the fuel that can drive walking school buses throughout the school year. These new kits will make sure schools get the best mileage out their walking buses,' Wayne said.



For more information on walking school buses or to order a kit, visit www.landtransport.govt.nz/travel/school/walking-school-buses/resource-kits.html.

Are you looking for information on promoting walking in your community?

If so, check out <http://walkit.info>, the comprehensive online database of information and resources for the promotion of walking and pedestrian-friendly streets in New Zealand.

A facelift for driver licences

New Zealand photo driver licences will look a bit different from next month.

Land Transport NZ is making several changes to driver licences to make it easier for police to positively identify drivers at the roadside, particularly at night.

The changes include a larger driver photo and larger text for the driver's name and other details, and a bigger box to display learner or restricted licence status. There is also a major change to the appearance of limited

licences, which will now be pink. Limited licences are granted to some suspended and disqualified drivers, allowing them to drive under strict conditions (eg, at certain times or along specified routes).

Licence holders do not need to re-apply for a new card – the new-look licences will be issued as they are replaced and renewed. Old licences remain valid until they expire.



Road Safety Innovation Awards

A quarter century of dedication to protecting children in cars has earned the Royal New Zealand Plunket Society top prize in the fourth annual New Zealand Road Safety Innovation and Achievement Awards.



When Plunket launched a pilot scheme in Dunedin in 1981 to get all babies into child restraints, just 20 percent of New Zealand children under age five travelled in appropriate car seats. In the space of a generation, that figure has risen to 91 percent, thanks in large part to the iconic Plunket Car Seat Rental Scheme. New Zealand's annual injury and death toll for child passengers has reduced by 50 percent since 1980.

The Plunket Car Seat Rental Scheme is available to parents nationwide, with over 26,000 infant and child restraints available for hire from a network of 250 coordinators, all of whom receive specialised training in the correct installation of child restraints under the ACC–Land Transport NZ 'Safe2Go' programme.

The number of child restraint rental locations in New Zealand is the largest per capita in the world, and the Plunket Car Seat Rental Scheme now serves as a blueprint for similar schemes worldwide.

Award winners in three other categories were also announced last month at a ceremony hosted at Parliament by Transport Safety Minister Harry Duynhoven.

Road Safety Education Award

The Road Safety Education Award went to Papamoa School's *I save the world*, a school travel programme with a healthy dose of sustainability, fun and learning built in.



Aimed at getting children to the Bay of Plenty school safely without using cars, the programme asks students and parents to help 'save the world' by walking, cycling or taking the bus to school. Using world travel as a theme, students 'visit' a new country every week, plotting their progress with passports, interactive maps, flags, stickers and badges.

Since the *I save the world* programme was introduced, the number of children travelling

to school by car has decreased by 37 percent, while bus travel has gone up by 55 percent, cycling has increased by 45 percent, and the number walking to school has jumped nearly 200 percent.

Road Safety Community Award

A programme that helps refugees learn New Zealand's road rules and gain driver licences won top prize in the community category of this year's awards.

The Refugee Road Safety Action Project gives United Nations refugees settling in New Zealand the opportunity to gain important safe driving knowledge while working towards a New Zealand driver licence, leading to better prospects of work and integration in the community.



Each year, around 1000 refugees settle in New Zealand, lacking basic knowledge of New Zealand road rules and our transport environment. The orientation programme at the national refugee resettlement centre didn't include road safety, so the Refugee Road Safety Action Project was initiated by Refugees As Survivors New Zealand (RASNZ).

With the help of Land Transport NZ and the Waitakere City Council, a three-stage programme was developed by Dr Arif Saeid, Community Services Manager of RASNZ. Nearly 500 refugees complete the course every year, and nearly 300 then go on to undertake driver licensing training. The pass rate for those sitting the learner licence test is 93 percent and resettlement social workers ensure training is completed in the community for full driver licensing.

In addition to the road safety benefits of the programme, refugee resettlement has been improved by reducing social isolation, improving mobility, enhancing self-esteem and helping former refugees find employment.

Road Safety Road Engineering Award

An engineering project that has helped to dramatically reduce the severity of crashes on State Highway 1 in the South Waikato and Taupo districts earned Transit New Zealand top prize in the road engineering category.

The 200 km stretch of road from Piarere to the Desert Road Summit had a poor safety record, with 803 reported crashes between 1998 and 2002, 118 of which were fatal or serious.

A multi-agency team lead by Transit and



including the NZ Police, Land Transport NZ, ACC, Environment Waikato, Opus International Consultants, the University of Waikato, and the South Waikato and Taupo District Councils was set up to investigate potential means of reducing crashes. Collectively known as South Waikato and Taupo Target 2010, or SWATT,

the team evaluated the crash history on this stretch of SH 1, and found a major factor was drivers crossing the centre line or leaving the road.

In response, a multi-faceted engineering project was set up to keep drivers on the road and in their lane. The measures included installing 114 km of 'audio tactile' edgelines and centrelines (also known as 'rumble strips') to warn drivers when they stray from their lane, widening road-marking edgelines, improving advisory signage for curves and improving skid resistance on the road surface.

Since completion of the physical works at the end of March 2006, the number of fatal and serious crashes has reduced significantly, with social costs reducing from \$34 million a year (2002–2006) to \$12 million for the 2006/07 year.

Project shifts truckloads of freight onto trains

Land Transport NZ is providing \$1 million in funding for an Environment Waikato project to shift woodchips carried from Whangarei to Kawerau off of large truck and trailer units and onto rail.

Environment Waikato chairperson Jenni Vernon said the council was delighted the project had received funding over three years to boost the volume of woodchips being transported by rail.

'It is projected that the volume of woodchips being transported from Whangarei to Kawerau will almost double over the next three years,' she said.

'Shifting this volume from road to rail will bring huge benefits – it can be expected there will be fewer road accidents involving trucks, and road users can look forward to improved travel times, as well as reductions in greenhouse gas and particulate emissions.'

Land Transport NZ Regional Partnerships Manager Rosalie Orr said the Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Auckland and Northland regions

would all benefit from less congestion and reduced road maintenance costs.

In announcing the funding approval for the project, Rosalie also invited Environment Waikato to discuss a barging trial as another potential alternative mode that could offer similar benefits.

Government announces next steps for land transport sector

On 25 May, Minister of Transport Annette King announced the results of a further review of the government land transport sector. The results of the 'Next steps' review are available on the State Services Commission website, www.ssc.govt.nz.

While there are still details to be worked through that will require consultation with stakeholders, the overall improvements proposed to investment planning and funding processes are welcomed by Land Transport NZ. The review report addresses the issues raised by the sector, including those raised by Land Transport NZ.

The merger of Land Transport NZ and Transit New Zealand is a significant event for both organisations. As with the lead-up to the merger of Transfund and the Land Transport Safety Authority to form Land Transport NZ in December 2004, the Land Transport NZ Board and staff will be focused on continuing to meet the needs of customers and partners while the changes are happening.

Australasian Road Safety Research Policing and Education Conference

Registrations are open for 'Australasia's premier annual road safety event'. The Australasian Road Safety Research Policing and Education Conference, taking place in Melbourne on 17–19 October 2007, will provide a forum for the exchange of information about current and future road safety initiatives. For more information, visit www.roadsafetyconference2007.com.au.

AUSTRALASIAN ROAD SAFETY RESEARCH POLICING AND EDUCATION CONFERENCE 2007
 17th–19th October Melbourne Australia
www.roadsafetyconference2007.com.au

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Visit the conference website to register your interest in attending the conference and to submit your abstract.

Conference Supporters:

17th–19th October 2007 CROWN PROMENADE, MELBOURNE
 This is Australasia's premier annual road safety event, providing a key forum for the exchange of information about current and future road safety initiatives.
 Located in the heart of Melbourne at Crown Promenade, the Conference will bring together leading local and international road safety experts over three days of presentations, workshops and keynote addresses.
 With a focus on road safety at the community level, the key objectives for the conference are:

- To share information about the latest road safety research and initiatives;
- To identify the best examples of translating research into action; and
- To identify key areas for action in research and policy for the future.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?
 Participation at the Conference is recommended for all road safety practitioners, and researchers, including those involved in the following areas:

- Local Government
- Public policy
- Engineering
- Vehicle manufacturing, marketing
- Emergency services
- Health services and providers
- Enforcement and policing
- Community and traffic safety education

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS
 With the theme 'The Way Ahead', the 2007 Australasian Road Safety Research, Policing and Education Conference will focus on the practical application of road safety research at the local level for the future.
 Authors or organisations who would like to make a presentation at the Conference are invited to submit an abstract of no more than 250 words outlining the aims, contents and conclusions of their paper or poster.
 If requested, abstracts will be reviewed by peer reviewers on the Conference Steering Committee. Presentations will be selected to provide a program that offers a comprehensive and diverse treatment of issues related to the conference theme.
 To submit your abstract please visit the conference website.
www.roadsafetyconference2007.com.au

KEY DATES
 Registration opens: March 2007
 Early Bird Registration closes: 31st August 2007
 Conference dates: 17th–19th October 2007

KEY DATES FOR SUBMISSION PROCESS
 Call for abstracts opens: February 2007
 Call for abstracts closes: 18th May 2007
 Notification of accepted abstracts: 15th June 2007
 Full papers due (peer reviewed): 20th July 2007
 Full papers due (non-peer reviewed): 17th August 2007

Visit the website for more information
www.roadsafetyconference2007.com.au

Heavy vehicle Road code release

The new-look *Official New Zealand road code for heavy vehicle drivers* hit bookstores earlier this month.

Like the new version of the *Road code* for car drivers released in February, the heavy vehicle *Road code* is now glove-box sized and consists of two volumes – *The official New Zealand road code for heavy vehicle drivers* and the *Licence and study guide*, containing driver licensing information and theory test questions.

Legislation affecting work time and logbook requirements for heavy vehicle drivers is expected to be passed later this year, and the content of some sections of the *Road code* may change as a result – these sections currently include advice for readers to check for any updates on the Land Transport NZ website. An updated *Road code* containing the changes will be produced early next year.

The new-look motorcycle *Road code* is due for release later in 2007.



New interchange connects North Shore communities

One of the biggest ever motorway upgrades on Auckland's North Shore opened to traffic last month, providing better connections between local communities and more travel options for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians.

The \$44m Esmonde Road interchange project was undertaken by Transit New Zealand in collaboration with the North Shore City Council and with funding from Land Transport NZ.

The interchange includes new northbound on-ramps to SH 1 at Esmonde Road and Akoranga Drive, and a new southbound off-ramp from the motorway to Esmonde Road, significantly improving motorway access from the east and west.

The interchange also includes major improvements to local roads. Esmonde Road has been upgraded and cycle lanes have been added, while transit lanes and an off-road shared cycle and pedestrian path have been added to Akoranga Drive.

The addition of an east-west route across the motorway links communities on either side, allowing motorists, cyclists and pedestrians to move freely across the motorway between Takapuna and Northcote.

The project also forms part of the Northern Busway, due to open in February 2008, with the Esmonde interchange providing dedicated bus routes to and from the busway's Akoranga station.

The design and construction complexities of this project were considerable, and Land Transport NZ congratulates Transit and the North Shore City Council for producing a solution that fully integrates the motorway, the busway and Akoranga bus station, as well as local roads, pedestrian paths and cycleways.



North Shore's new Esmonde Road interchange improves motorway access and allows drivers, cyclists and pedestrians to move freely across the highway between Takapuna and Northcote.

Do we have your correct details?

We would like to hear from you if you wish to update your name or address details or alter the number of copies of *Land Transport News* you'd like to receive. Please also let us know if you or others you know wish to begin receiving *Land Transport News*.

Email alan.heppleston@landtransport.govt.nz

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AA Centre, 450 Moray Place
PO Box 5245, Dunedin 9016

Transport Registry Centre

Telephone 06 953 6200 Fax 06 953 6411
Cnr Ashley and Ferguson Streets
Private Bag, Palmerston North 4410

Call centres

General enquiries	0800 699 000
Driver licensing	0800 822 422
Road user charges	0800 655 644
Motor vehicle registration	0800 108 809
Overdimension permits	0800 683 774