Ministry of Transport: Aide Memoire

To: Hon Julie Anne Genter
From: Brent Johnston, Manager, Mobility and Safety
Date: 1 February 2019
Subject: Links between the Road Safety Strategy and other road safety work
OC Number: OC190093

Purpose of this aide memoire

1. To provide you with an overview of the proposed phasing for consultation on key elements of the road safety work programme, as per the draft annotated agenda for the next Ministerial Advisory Group (MAG) meeting that we provided to your office on 25 January 2019.

Links between consultation on the strategy and the broader safety work programme

2. A number of other safety work items with significant interfaces with the strategy are due to be publicly consulted on in the first half of 2019. Some of these proposals were due for consultation in 2018 but did not proceed through the Cabinet process at that time.

3. While it is critical that we continue to progress these shorter-term pieces of work as a priority, it is also important that we phase consultation to ensure that consultation on the strategy is focused on the longer term ambition and commitment to road safety, rather than specific actions or proposals. We therefore suggest consulting on the new Road Safety Strategy separately from any other major safety proposals.

4. These timeframes will be outlined at a high level in the revised material that we are preparing for the Ministerial Advisory Group meeting on 11 February 2019. This will ensure that Ministers are aware of the wide range of other work underway to improve road safety outcomes and the proposed phasing of public consultation.

5. Our suggested phasing is as follows:

Anti-lock Braking Systems (ABS) for Motorcycles

6. Public consultation on a proposed rule change mandating ABS for motorcycles is due for Cabinet consideration on 13 February 2019. This paper was deferred from consideration in late 2019 and is ready to be consulted on in advance of the strategy. Subject to Cabinet approval, we expect that public consultation will commence in late February 2019 and be coordinated by the NZ Transport Agency.
Strengthening Drug Driving Enforcement

7. A public discussion document on potential changes to strengthen the enforcement of drug driving is due for Cabinet consideration on 13 February 2019. This paper was deferred from consideration in late 2019 and is ready to be consulted on in advance of the strategy.

8. Subject to Cabinet approval, we expect that public consultation will commence in late February 2019 and will involve a public discussion document, alongside targeted sessions with key stakeholders. The drug driving consultation will be relatively high profile, although it will not be putting forward a particular proposal. Any legislative changes relating to drug driving will be progressed through the proposed Regulatory Systems (Transport) Amendment Bill.

Driver licensing

9. Public consultation on proposed changes to the driver licensing rule, including to vision testing requirements and heavy vehicle licensing, is due for Cabinet consideration on 13 February 2019. This paper was deferred from consideration in late 2018 and is ready to be consulted on in advance of the strategy. Subject to Cabinet approval, we expect that public consultation will commence in late February 2019.

Road Safety Strategy

10. We propose to consult on the new Road Safety Strategy on its own from April 2019 for a period of four weeks. Key consultation activities are outlined in the draft material for the next MAG meeting.

Tackling Unsafe Speeds

11. We had previously suggested consulting on the tackling unsafe speeds proposals at about the same time as the strategy in April 2019. Given the need to build public buy-in to a more ambitious approach to road safety (through the strategy consultation) and the likely level of public interest in the proposed speed changes, we no longer recommend full public consultation on the speed changes at this time.

12. We instead propose targeted engagement with a limited number of councils on proposed speed management changes in March 2019, with broader public consultation to occur from May 2019. We do not anticipate that this change will impact on the overall timeframes for this project.

Accessible Streets

13. Consultation on the Accessible Streets package is proposed from late May 2019 (after consultation on the strategy has ended). We expect that a number of proposals in this package will be relatively high profile.
We expect to consult on the action plan for the strategy from July 2019. We expect that this will include a range of different initiatives for the proposed priority areas, ranging from specific proposals to areas for further investigation and research, as well as analysis of the likely costs and benefits of different initiatives. We expect to undertake broad consultation on the action plan, although likely with fewer engagement activities than during consultation on the strategy itself.

Contact:
Brent Johnston, Manager, Mobility and Safety
Phone: [redacted]