



# Cabinet Economic Development Committee

## Minute of Decision

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### Driver Licensing Rule Amendments: Proposed Consultation

**Portfolio** Associate Transport (Hon Julie Anne Genter)

On 13 February 2019, the Cabinet Economic Development Committee (DEV):

- 1 **noted** that in 2014, the Ministry of Transport and the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) reviewed the driver licensing regulatory system and found that, while the current driver licensing system is working adequately, there are opportunities for further improvement while maintaining road safety;
- 2 **noted** that early in 2016, the Ministry of Transport and NZTA undertook public consultation on proposed amendments to the Land Transport (Driver Licensing) Rule 1999 (the Rule) to:
  - 2.1 reduce the frequency of vision testing to enable online driver licensing transactions;
  - 2.2 streamline the progression between heavy vehicle licence classes;
  - 2.3 remove licence endorsements for ‘special-type’ vehicles;
  - 2.4 standardise requirements for ‘special-type’ vehicles and reduce compliance costs;
  - 2.5 increase the powers of the NZTA to manage approved course providers;
- 3 **noted** that public consultation showed that submitters were generally supportive of the changes, but that the proposal to reduce vision testing requirements to enable online licensing was controversial with the New Zealand Police, medical associations and optometrists;
- 4 **noted** that in December 2016, following public consultation, the previous government agreed to proceed with the proposed amendments to the Rule, including a modified proposal for reduced vision testing that responded to the concerns raised during the public consultation [CAB-16-MIN-0707];
- 5 **agreed** to undertake public consultation on the proposed amendments to the Rule, pursuant to section 161 of the Land Transport Act 1998;

- 6 invited the Associate Minister of Transport (Hon Julie Anne Genter) to report back to DEV on the results of the public consultation, together with proposals for progressing the amendments, in June 2019.

Janine Harvey  
Committee Secretary

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**Present:**

Hon Kelvin Davis  
Hon Grant Robertson (Chair)  
Hon Phil Twyford  
Hon Dr Megan Woods  
Hon David Parker  
Hon Nanaia Mahuta  
Hon Iain Lees-Galloway  
Hon Jenny Salesa  
Hon Damien O'Connor  
Hon Shane Jones  
Hon Kris Faafai  
Hon James Shaw  
Hon Julie Anne Genter

**Officials present from:**

Office of the Prime Minister  
Officials Committee for DEV

**Hard-copy distribution:**

Associate Minister of Transport (Hon Julie Anne Genter)