

OC210885

12 November 2021

██████████ Withheld to protect personal privacy  
██████████

By email only to: ██████████ Withheld to protect personal privacy

Dear ██████████ Withheld to protect personal privacy

Thank you for your correspondence expressing your concerns regarding Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's (Waka Kotahi's) delivery of the Government Policy Statement on land transport 2021/22–2030/31 (GPS 2021) direction, and the alignment of the 2021–24 National Land Transport Programme (NLTP) with the GPS 2021. That correspondence was to the Ministry's Chief Executive dated 6 August 2021, the Ministry dated 9 September 2021, the Ministry's Chief Executive dated 7 October 2021, the Ministry's former Acting Manager Domain Strategy, Economics and Evaluation, Sandy Fong dated 18 October 2021, and the Ministry dated 22 October 2021.

Waka Kotahi has statutory independence in relation to giving effect to the GPS. It is also responsible for demonstrating how it is giving and has given effect to the GPS. Currently, Waka Kotahi does this through the NLTP and its annual reports, as well as in its regular discussions with, and updates to, the Minister.

Section 2.6 of GPS 2021 sets out the indicators for how progress will be measured. Paragraph 89 requires that each applicant (meaning the funding application for each activity and its business cases) shows how it has considered alternatives, and how they compare against the indicators. The purpose for including this in GPS 2021 was to ensure that at a project level, funding applicants had carefully considered the alignment of their project (and alternative options) against GPS objectives.

The indicators are also used to show what the Ministry, working with agencies, will use to monitor progress in achieving the strategic priorities of GPS 2021. However, because the indicators are not weighted or prioritised, the GPS 2021 does not require an assessment of the indicators by Waka Kotahi at a programme level. The Ministry prepares annual GPS monitoring reports, which report on the progress made with respect to each indicator. The first two reports for monitoring progress against GPS 2018 can be found on the Ministry website at:

<https://www.transport.govt.nz/area-of-interest/strategy-and-direction/government-policy-statement-on-land-transport-2018/>

The Ministry does not have responsibility for approving or endorsing the NLTP. However, Waka Kotahi did take steps to work with the Ministry as it developed the 2021–24 NLTP including:

- sharing its draft Investment Prioritisation Method (IPM) with the Ministry before it was published
- inviting the Ministry and local government to attend and provide feedback on NLTP moderation sessions as observers
- engaging with the Ministry prior to the release of the NLTP.

The GPS 2021 includes a wide range of priorities and expectations that need to be balanced, and the GPS does not expect every activity in the NLTP to progress every one of them. Balancing them requires discretion from Waka Kotahi, with the objective of progressing the strategic priorities to the greatest extent possible.

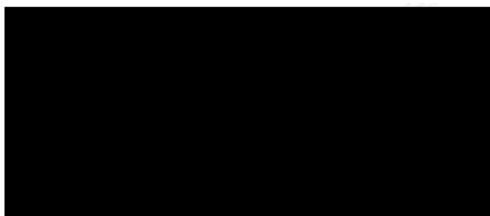
As part of GPS 2021 development, the Ministry used indicative activities/types of activities to allow us to take a bottom-up approach to setting activity class funding ranges based on the strategic priorities. The 2021–24 NLTP is largely consistent with our theoretical bottom-up assessment, and on this basis, we do not currently have concerns that the NLTP does not align with the GPS 2021 intent.

For the sake of clarity, we note that the only correspondence which we consider is a request for information, and therefore to which the Official Information Act applies, is the part of the 18 October request which asks “Can you please advise whether MoT has raised any of these matters with NZTA and provide a copy of the relevant correspondence with NZTA?” I can advise that no such correspondence exists, so am declining your request under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act (as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist).

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



Withheld to protect personal privacy

**Tim Herbert**  
**Manager, Investment**