

Proactive Release

This document is proactively released by Te Manatū Waka the Ministry of Transport.

Some information has been withheld on the basis that it would not, if requested under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), be released. Where that is the case, the relevant section of the OIA has been noted and no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Listed below are the most commonly used grounds from the OIA.

<u>Section</u>	<u>Description of ground</u>
6(a)	as release would be likely to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand Government
6(b)	as release would be likely to prejudice the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the Government of any other country or any agency of such a Government; or (ii) any international organisation
6(c)	prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial
9(2)(a)	to protect the privacy of natural persons
9(2)(b)(ii)	to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information
9(2)(ba)(i)	to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public
9(2)(ba)(ii)	to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely otherwise to damage the public interest
9(2)(f)(i)	to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect collective and individual ministerial responsibility
9(2)(f)(iv)	to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials
9(2)(g)(i)	to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any public service agency or organisation in the course of their duty
9(2)(h)	to maintain legal professional privilege
9(2)(i)	to enable a Minister of the Crown or any public service agency or organisation holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities
9(2)(j)	to enable a Minister of the Crown or any public service agency or organisation holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)

Annex 1: Land Transport Rules Reform Programme Update November 2025

PROACTIVELY RELEASED BY
MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT TE MANATŪ WAKA



Cabinet Economic Policy Committee

Minute of Decision

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Progress on the Land Transport Rules Reform Programme

Portfolio **Transport**

On 10 December 2025, the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee (ECO):

- 1 **noted** that in June 2025, ECO agreed to establish the Land Transport Rules Reform programme (the Programme) to undertake a review of land transport rules, with the aim of reducing compliance costs and regulatory burden [ECO-25-MIN-0083];
- 2 **noted** that the Programme has identified opportunities to reduce regulatory burden, with one change implemented and three proposed changes currently out for public consultation;
- 3 **authorised** the Minister of Transport to make detailed policy decisions consistent with the enabling policy direction already agreed by Cabinet [ECO-25-SUB-0083] and within the parameters set out in paragraph 21 of the paper under ECO-25-SUB-0222;
- 4 **invited** the Minister of Transport to issue drafting instructions to the Parliamentary Counsel Office for service modernisation based on the detailed policy decisions referred to in paragraph 3;
- 5 **invited** the Minister of Transport to report back to ECO by 31 March 2026, seeking policy decisions on other workstreams of the Programme.

Rachel Clarke
Committee Secretary

Present:

Hon David Seymour
Hon Nicola Willis (Chair)
Hon Chris Bishop
Hon Brooke van Velden
Hon Shane Jones
Hon Paul Goldsmith
Hon Louise Upston
Hon Dr Shane Reti
Hon Tama Potaka
Hon Simon Watts
Hon Chris Penk
Hon Penny Simmonds
Hon Andrew Hoggard
Hon Nicola Grigg
Hon Mark Patterson
Hon James Meager
Hon Scott Simpson
Simon Court MP

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Office of Hon Chris Bishop
Office of Hon Simon Watts
Officials Committee for ECO



Cabinet Economic Policy Committee

Summary

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Progress on the Land Transport Rules Reform Programme

Portfolio	Transport
Purpose	This paper provides an update on the Land Transport Rules Reform programme (Annex 1) and seeks authorisation for the Minister of Transport to make detailed policy decisions and issue drafting instructions to implement service modernisation and digital driver licences.
Previous Decisions	In June 2025, ECO agreed to establish the programme to undertake a review of land transport rules, with the aim of reducing compliance costs and regulatory burden [ECO-25-MIN-0083].
Proposal	<p>Since the programme's introduction in June 2025, compliance costs have reduced, and further changes to simplify rules and make inspection requirements more efficient will have an estimated benefit of over \$1.9 billion in the coming decades.</p> <p>s 9(2)(i)</p> <p>In parallel, NZTA is moving to electronic notices and digital alternatives to vehicle labels. Physical licence and label formats will be retained to ensure equitable access for all users during and after the transition to digital services.</p> <p>Three more rule changes are currently out for consultation: reducing the frequency of light vehicle inspection requirements; removing unnecessary requirements for heavy vehicles and streamlining regulation; and introducing additional safety requirements for vehicle imports.</p>
Impact Analysis	Not required.
Financial Implications	None from this s 9(2)(i)
	<p>The proposed changes for inspection requirements are expected to deliver over \$1.9 billion in net benefits over the next three decades.</p>

Legislative Implications	Legislation is required to implement these proposals.
Timing Matters	A national rollout of a digital driver licence could be implemented as early as the second half of 2026. E-servicing for regulatory notices will be phased in over three years, and digital alternatives to vehicle labels will be phased in over 15 months. The Minister intends to provide the next update in March 2026.
Communications	None planned.
Consultation	Paper prepared by MoT (Transport), DIA, MoJ, Privacy Commissioner, Police, Treasury (Infrastructure), and MfR were consulted. DPMC was informed. NZTA was also consulted. The Minister indicates that the Minister of Finance, Minister of Justice, Minister for Digitising Government, Minister of Police, Associate Minister of Transport and all Government parties were consulted.

The Minister of Transport recommends that the Committee:

- 1 note that in June 2025, ECO agreed to establish the Land Transport Rules Reform programme (the Programme) to undertake a review of land transport rules, with the aim of reducing compliance costs and regulatory burden [ECO-25-MIN-0083];
- 2 note that the Programme has identified opportunities to reduce regulatory burden, with one change implemented and three proposed changes currently out for public consultation;
- 3 authorise the Minister of Transport to make detailed policy decisions consistent with the enabling policy direction already agreed by Cabinet [ECO-25-SUB-0083] and within the parameters set out in paragraph 21 of the paper under ECO-25-SUB-0222;
- 4 authorise the Minister of Transport to issue drafting instructions to the Parliamentary Counsel Office for service modernisation based on the detailed policy decisions referred to in paragraph 3;
- 5 invite the Minister of Transport to report back to ECO by 31 March 2026, seeking policy decisions on other workstreams of the Programme.

Rachel Clarke
Committee Secretary

Hard-copy distribution:

Cabinet Economic Policy Committee
Minister for Digitising Government
Minister of Police



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Report of the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee: Period Ended 12 December 2025

On 15 December 2025, Cabinet made the following decisions on the work of the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee for the period ended 12 December 2025:

Out of Scope

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MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT TE MANATU WAKA

ECO-25-MIN-0222

**Progress on the Land Transport Rules Reform
Programme**
Portfolio: Transport

CONFIRMED

Out of Scope

Diana Hawker
for Secretary of the Cabinet

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