

Hon Julie Anne Genter

Minister for Women

Associate Minister of Health
Associate Minister of Transport



17 April 2018

Tēnā koutou

Local Government Road Safety Summit 9 April 2018

I was extremely pleased to see over 100 senior Local Government representatives taking part in the Local Government Road Safety Summit in Wellington on 9 April 2018. Thank you to those who were able to attend. This high level of engagement enabled a very active and worthwhile discussion about how to improve road safety in New Zealand. It also provided a valuable opportunity for me to hear directly from Councils about the challenges they are facing, as well as the different needs of the different regions.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Stuart Crosby Vice Chairman of LGNZ and the four panellists: Rachel Reese, Mayor of Nelson, Pippa Coom, Chair, Waitematā Local Board, Auckland Council, Hugh Vercoe, Regional Transport Committee Chair, Waikato Regional Council, and David Ayers, Mayor of Waimakariri District Council for taking part in the panel discussion. Their diverse perspectives and considered responses to the questions they were asked helped stimulate the thinking for the participants.

The feedback from the workshop sessions in particular gave me a great deal to think about, and they generated many concrete suggestions for changes. I thought it would be useful to share some of the key themes that emerged from the workshop session, especially for those who were not able to attend. These included:

- There should be strong and ongoing leadership on road safety from central government, including consideration of the Vision Zero approach to road safety
- There should be clear government road safety targets and consideration should be given as to whether local government should be tied to any interim targets
- There was support for increased funding for road safety projects including changing Funding Assistance Rates
- The processes for accessing funding for road safety improvements should not be unduly onerous and disproportionate to the scale of the project
- The process for changing local speed limits, including looking at how default speed limits are set, should be simplified and streamlined
- Road safety should be a whole of government approach and should bring together a wide range of government agencies, all of which should share a consistent view
- Improving the safety of children and other vulnerable users walking and cycling to school, including an increased use of eBikes, should be a priority
- There should be increased use of road safety education campaigns, as well as an increased level of on-road enforcement by NZ Police
- There should be improved access to national data especially for smaller councils which may lack specialist data analysis skills
- Ensuring consistent national standards for road markings, signage, and road designs.

I have already asked my officials to start investigating how these and the other ideas that were recorded can be developed further. Some of the ideas should be able to be implemented fairly quickly. Other suggestions will take longer to refine and implement and I expect to see these picked up in the new road safety strategy and its accompanying action plan. Where the suggestions involved funding, these will be taken up as part of consultation on the draft Government Policy Statement on Land Transport 2018/19 – 2027/28.

The Ministry of Transport is publishing the key documents related to the Summit and the new road safety strategy on its website (www.transport.govt.nz). As well as a formal report on the Summit, that it is currently preparing, it will publish a copy of the Cabinet Paper that agreed to the development of the new road safety strategy. This paper also set out the package of measures to improve road safety that I touched on in my opening address at the Summit. This material is likely to be of wider interest to the road safety community.

If you have any queries about the process for developing the new strategy, please feel free to email roadsafetystrategy@transport.govt.nz.

Finally, the Ministry of Transport has developed a short (six question) anonymous survey about the Summit. It would be very useful to help us plan further consultation on road safety if participants could take the time to answer these questions. The web address for this is <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/K7V58JY>.

Thank you again to all who took part on the day and I look forward to working with you all as we develop our new road safety strategy over 2018 and 2019.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Julie Anne Genter', written in a cursive style.

Hon Julie Anne Genter
Associate Minister of Transport

Copy to:
Hon Phil Twyford, Minister of Transport
Peter Mersi, Chief Executive, Ministry of Transport
Dame Fran Wilde, Acting Chair, New Zealand Transport Agency Board
Fergus Gammie, Chief Executive, New Zealand Transport Agency
Malcolm Alexander, Chief Executive, LGNZ