

15 September 2023

Minister of Transport

Draft Government Policy Statement for Land Transport 2024/25-2033/34

By email: d.parker@ministers.govt.nz

Auckland Regional Transport Committee Feedback on the *draft Government Policy Statement for Land Transport 2024/25-2033/34*

Dear Minister

cc. Mayor of Auckland; Chief Executive for the Auckland Council; Chief Executive of the Ministry of Transport; Chief Executive of Auckland Transport.

The Auckland Regional Transport Committee (the ARTC) is responsible under the Land Transport Management Act 2003 (LTMA) for submitting the Auckland Regional Land Transport Plan (ARLTP) to the Auckland Transport board for approval. We must be satisfied that the ARLTP is consistent with the Government Policy Statement for Land Transport (GPS) and promotes the purpose of the LTMA.

This submission emphasises the importance of a GPS which is clear in the direction it provides to entities like ours and which enables us to contribute to a land transport system which is effective, efficient and safe in the public interest. It confirms that the draft GPS provides us with the direction we need to fulfil our statutory responsibilities. We request that additional consultation is undertaken if there are substantive changes to the draft GPS before the final document is released.

We note that this submission addresses issues of process and timing relevant to the statutory role of the ARTC. A separate submission on the draft GPS from the Auckland Council group will consider the government's policy direction and priorities.

The ARTC is a unique construct in the New Zealand land transport system. Unlike other RTCs, which reflect membership from across different territorial and regional councils and central government, the ARTC consists of the Auckland Transport board, including its two Auckland councillors and one Waka Kotahi representative, and a representative from KiwiRail.

Under s. 14 of the Land Transport Management Act 2003, the ARTC is responsible for submitting the Auckland Regional Land Transport Plan (ARLTP) to the Auckland Transport board for approval. As with all RTCs nationally, the ARTC must be satisfied that the ARLTP is consistent with the GPS, among other core requirements.

Following publication of the 2021 ARLTP, judicial review proceedings were brought against the ARTC, Auckland Transport and Auckland Council. While these proceedings were successfully defended, a key issue which arose was whether the ARLTP 2021 was consistent with the GPS 2021, as required under law. The High Court found that the four strategic priorities in the GPS 2021-2031 (safety, better travel options, improving freight connections, and climate change) were of equal weight, and that no one priority (such as climate change) was more important than the others.

The ARTC has reviewed the draft GPS and received advice. We are comfortable that the existing wording of the draft document provides sufficient direction and clarity to enable us to perform our



statutory function. It is important to us that the wording of the draft GPS is not substantially changed without further consultation.

We request that, in the event of changes to the draft GPS, sufficient time is provided for both consultation and the development of RLTPs and council long term planning processes. Noting the importance of our role, the need to balance competing objectives, and the complexity of meeting expectations for responsiveness and consistency, it is important that we have enough time to receive and consider advice before finalising decisions.

Yours sincerely

Wayne Donnelly

Chair of the Auckland Regional Transport Committee