



Cabinet Economic Development Committee

Minute of Decision

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

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

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 Faafoi
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)