

01 April 2024

RE: VIA's Response to the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport 2024

The Imported Motor Vehicle Industry Association (VIA) appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport 2024 (GPS 2024). VIA is committed to collaborating with the Government to achieve mutual objectives in the land transport sector, emphasizing economic growth, safety, resilience, and value for money. Our submission highlights our position on key points outlined in the GPS, illustrating our support, and suggesting areas for further engagement.

Economic Growth, Productivity, and Value for Money

VIA is aligned with the Government's strategic priorities to enhance economic growth and productivity. We are eager to work alongside the Government within our sector's scope to realize these goals, ensuring that our initiatives contribute positively to New Zealand's economy. The move towards a more equitable road user charge system, as highlighted in the GPS, is particularly welcomed. VIA is developing a strategy and plan for automated universal road user charges, which, aside from ensuring fairness, incorporates telematics and emergency call-like functionalities. This innovation exemplifies VIA's readiness to contribute to achieving value for money in the land transport infrastructure.

Maintenance, Resilience, and Safety

The emphasis on increased maintenance and resilience is crucial, and VIA supports the proactive approach to road maintenance and infrastructure resilience improvement. Given the escalating impacts of climate change, maintaining and enhancing the resilience of our roadways is vital for both the industry and the broader community. VIA is particularly supportive of initiatives aimed at improving road safety. We have devoted significant resources to understanding the primary causes of road harm and are prepared to share our insights and collaborate closely with the Government to design and implement effective safety measures.

Emissions Reduction and Environmental Sustainability

VIA recognizes the importance of accelerating decarbonization efforts within the transport sector. We are actively participating in discussions around the second Emissions Reduction Plan (ERP2) and support expanding the electric vehicle charging network. However, we urge caution in interpreting forecasts regarding the decrease in total petrol consumption without considering the increase in vehicle mass and power, which has counteracted efficiency gains in other jurisdictions. New Zealand's approach should consider the unique dynamics of used imports, which have demonstrated potential for real CO₂ reductions through decreased vehicle mass since the implementation of the Clean Car Standard.

Congestion and Efficiency

We acknowledge the Government's efforts to address congestion through reforming tolling legislation and introducing time-of-use charging. VIA believes that congestion charging can be an effective tool in a comprehensive strategy to mitigate congestion issues. Additionally, the focus on



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restoring the credibility of the Emissions Trading Scheme is essential for ensuring that all polluters bear a fair share of the environmental costs of their activities.

Inclusivity in Transport

VIA is concerned about the criteria for investing in pedestrian and cycling infrastructure, which may overlook the critical need to improve safety perceptions and encourage a more diverse transport system. A forward-looking approach that builds infrastructure in anticipation of increased use, rather than in reaction to it, will be crucial for fostering sustainable urban mobility.

VIA is dedicated to working constructively with the Government to address the challenges and opportunities presented in the GPS 2024. We believe that through collaboration, innovation, and a shared commitment to productivity, sustainability, safety, and efficiency, we can achieve a transformative impact on New Zealand's land transport system. We welcome further dialogue on how VIA can contribute to the planning, implementation, and enhancement of these initiatives.

We thank you for considering our submission and look forward to the opportunity to contribute further to the development of New Zealand's land transport policy.

Sincerely,



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About us: VIA is the business association that represents the interests of all businesses involved in importing, preparing, wholesaling, and retailing most used vehicles that are imported into New Zealand from Japan, UK, and other source markets.

VIA members include registered traders, importers and wholesalers, Japanese auction companies and exporters, shipping companies, NZ Government-accredited inspection agencies, ports, compliance shops and other service providers to the trade.

Privacy Statement: VIA has no concerns about this submission being made available to the public.



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