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Dear Forum members

### **Please help us to reverse the current growth in fatal and serious road crashes**

We want you to get involved in developing the new National Road Safety Strategy for 2020-2030, as we believe you have a role to play. The Waikato Regional Transport Committee and Waikato Regional Road Safety Forum are sharing a regional position paper as we know there are a range of actions that could decrease New Zealand's road deaths by up to 250 people per year, and some of these may affect you.

The RCA Forum has a role in supporting road controlling authorities (RCA) to drive for better transport safety outcomes, through encouraging a Safe System response, adoption of Vision Zero by each individual RCA and supporting better planning, planning tools and land use integration, better public and community transport options, supporting active modes to provide better mobility options for communities to reduce their exposure to road risk. RCA Forum can support knowledge transfer, and ensuring there is good education on the Safe System and best practice infrastructure design. We are calling for changes to funding and investment evaluation that could have a significant impact on the ability of RCA's to deliver quality infrastructure and services to their communities over time. We ask you to share this with your members.

New Zealand is suffering from a crisis of complacency. People are dying and being seriously injured on our road network at an unprecedented rate. We know road trauma on our road network is neither inevitable nor acceptable – it is clear a new approach is needed.

#### **Help us to save lives:**

- Head to <https://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/council/policy-and-plans/transport-policy/road-safety-strategy/> for the Position Paper, and the Waikato Regional Road Safety Strategy, to understand what we are asking for, how it might affect you, or how you can make a difference.
- The Ministry of Transport is running a number of early engagement work streams and will be consulting with the sector and public more widely through the first half of 2019.
- Keep an eye out for Ministry of Transport opportunities to participate, and find more information here: <https://www.transport.govt.nz/multi-modal/keystrategiesandplans/road-safety-strategy/>

#### **Why the position paper is needed**

Too many people are dying and being seriously injured on our rural and urban roads and we think the solutions need to rest across all those who contribute to the outcomes we see on the land transport system. Regional road safety partners want to see improvements to the strategic approach and better outcomes for our region and all of New Zealand.

We are sharing this paper nationally to support healthy and robust conversations about road safety issues, strategic approach, policies and actions, and to encourage involvement in the national strategy development. As a region we have committed to the vision that *land transport in the Waikato region is a Safe System, working towards zero deaths and serious injuries*.

**Moving from a Safe System *in principle* to a Safe System *in action***

The best performing countries manage their transport system as a Safe System, and have only one third of the casualty rate we do. Safe System principles accept that:

- **People make mistakes:** We accept that people make mistakes and some crashes are inevitable. We don't accept that death or serious injury from crashes is inevitable.
- **People are vulnerable:** Our bodies have a limited ability to withstand crash forces. Crash forces need to be kept at survivable levels.
- **We need to share responsibility:** System designers and all types of road users need to share responsibility for creating a safe transport system.
- **We need to strengthen all parts of the system:** We need to improve across the board.

We believe the Safe System needs to be fully integrated into all transport planning, funding, and implementation processes in New Zealand. We also think that users of the transport system have a role to play in bringing about positive change. This is a complex problem that requires a collaborative, multi-agency approach, strong leadership, and widespread public and business support.

Waikato region stakeholders are committed to reversing the current increase in death and serious injury crashes, so all our residents and visitors can travel safely. Thank you for your consideration.

Yours faithfully



Rachel Cook

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On behalf of

Waikato Regional Transport Committee and Regional Road Safety Forum