



will be considered to be released in full

MINO-535 Concrete NZ engagement with Waka Kotahi

30 November 2022

Regarding a letter from Rob Gaimster, Chief Executive of Concrete NZ, to Hon Michael Wood, Minister of Transport. Office of Hon Wood seeks advice on Mr Gaimster's request to meet with Hon Wood to discuss net zero carbon concrete by 2050 (i.e. reducing cement and concrete industry emissions), and what engagement Waka Kotahi has had with Concrete NZ to date. Hon Wood also met with Concrete NZ in 2021 and wants to know if there is anything new to consider.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's response:

Waka Kotahi has not seen or received any new information from Concrete NZ that would add value to a potential meeting with the Minister. Concrete NZ regularly meets with technical experts (including pavements and surfacing, and environmental sustainability specialists) from Waka Kotahi, and Waka Kotahi will continue to liaise with the industry, including Concrete NZ.

The Safe and Sustainable Standards team at Waka Kotahi is currently developing emission tools to include lower carbon alternatives. For instance, the next version of its *project emissions estimation tool* (PEET) will include low carbon concrete options to help facilitate considering these options. The team is also investigating adding concrete pavements as an alternative option to its *life cycle assessment of pavements* (LCAP) tool to understand the life cycle emissions across different pavement types. Waka Kotahi is also funding innovative research that is investigating improved concrete recycling and low carbon concrete alternatives.

It is also worth noting that:

- Waka Kotahi does not preclude concrete for pavements and other uses, subject to the material complying with applicable standards and achieving the performance requirements and outcomes. Waka Kotahi is also unaware of any of our suppliers contacting us about building concrete pavement types.
- Waka Kotahi does not incentivise any material over another – rather, it focuses on achieving outcomes, performance standards and efficiency. While Waka Kotahi does not incentivise using concrete, it instead incentivises *options* which seek to reduce carbon. This encourages the roading industry (including suppliers) to seek out such opportunities, of which concrete may be one of many possibilities.

Correspondence received by Waka Kotahi

Waka Kotahi has previously received the following correspondence from Rob Gaimster:

- letter dated 26 February 2016 from then Cement & Concrete Association of New Zealand (CCANZ): request for budget and maintenance schedule for roundabouts, intersections, bus lanes and on-/offramps (our reference OIA-2282).



will be considered to be released in full

- letter sent to Mark Ratcliffe (then Interim Chief Executive, Waka Kotahi) on 19 June 2019; wanting to share Concrete NZ's updated analysis with Waka Kotahi showing that concrete roads could save money for major New Zealand roading projects, and to discuss a report on this matter (our reference NZT-4052).
- letter sent to Nicole Rosie, Chief Executive of Waka Kotahi, on 9 July 2020 regarding durable outcomes for road pavements and a request for a meeting to discuss this matter (our reference NZT-5123).

Correspondence and advice to the Office of the Minister of Transport

- Hon Gerry Brownlee, then Minister of Transport, received a letter dated 25 July 2012 from Rob Gaimster regarding discount rates used in benefit -to-cost ratios for roads of national significance (RoNS). Ministerial Services prepared a response on 10 August 2012 (our reference MNZTA-1336).
- On 13 November 2020 Hon Wood received a letter from Rob Gaimster regarding Concrete NZ's briefing for incoming ministers. Waka Kotahi drafted a response (sent 18 February 2021) which advised that Hon Wood was unable to meet with Concrete NZ due to other commitments but, due to the operational nature of this matter, encouraged Concrete NZ to have a direct discussion with Waka Kotahi (our reference M201561 – MI-127).
- On 17 November 2020 the Office of Hon Wood sought advice from Ministerial Services on the above in relation to a meeting request (our reference MING-0143).
- On 18 November 2021 it was suggested that Waka Kotahi prepare a pre-emptive briefing for Hon Wood to address some points raised at a meeting on 17 November 2021: these included suggesting how low carbon concrete could be considered as part of our projects, and summarising the dialogue between Concrete NZ and Waka Kotahi on concrete roads. Ministerial Services prepared a Ministerial Briefing Note titled "*Increasing resource efficiency and reducing embodied carbon*" which was sent to the Office of Hon Wood on 22 December 2021 (our reference BRI-2353).