

MIN-4204 Meeting with Nuhiti Roding Committee

23 May 2023

Provide advice on the claims made by the Nuhiti Roding Committee, and a summary of our work with Tairāwhiti REAP

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's response:

Nuhiti Roding Committee

Waka Kotahi has not received any requests from Gisborne District Council (GDC) for the realignment of Anaura Road. We have worked with GDC on a draft request for Emergency Works funding for a September 2022 event (for slip removal and debris clean up), this application is currently with GDC for their review before it is officially submitted to Waka Kotahi.

Tairāwhiti REAP

Following a review of the graduated driver licence system, carried out by Te Manatū Waka Ministry of Transport, the Director of Land Transport committed to leading an inter-agency programme to improve driver licencing, which:

- will look into the wider system changes to improve access; and
- delivered targeted programmes (as a proof of concept) in Tairāwhiti and Te Tai Tokerau.

In June 2022, Tairāwhiti Rural Education Activities Programme (REAP) Incorporated, J&S McInnes Ltd and Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the aim to *"trial an alternative delivery methodology for driver licensing testing services...with the aim that it will be more equitable, more suitable, more accessible and more culturally responsive for rural and remote communities of Tairāwhiti."*

Testing by driver testing officers dedicated to this trial started in July 2022, using a combination of testing officers employed by McInnes, a Tairāwhiti based driver training company, and specially trained community driver testing officers. By using dedicated testing officers, REAP can provide faster access to practical testing for its students. The dedicated driver testing officers are attuned to the needs of local students and are certified to provide testing services. They work alongside the Tairāwhiti REAP team, which is responsible for supporting students to be ready to sit driver licence tests; including picking up groups in rural communities like Hicks Bay for the long drive to the practical driving test in Gisborne. The trial has proven successful, with a pass rate of 84 percent versus a national average of 62 percent.

To 19 May 2023, 354 practical tests have been conducted as part of the Tairāwhiti trial over 52 testing days, with 298 people successfully gaining a Class 1 restricted or full licence. Practical driving tests have been undertaken in Gisborne, and following Cyclone Gabrielle, in Ōpōtiki. Testing in Ōpōtiki for Tairāwhiti REAP students began in April 2023 to provide certainty for those living in the East Cape and unable to reach

Gisborne due to cyclone-damaged roads. s 9(2)(g)(i)

91 percent of students who have sat tests as part of the Tairāwhiti trial identify as Māori, with the bulk of participants (53 percent) being aged 16-24 years, and around 14 percent aged 41 years or older.

The trial is supported by a governance kāhui chaired by s 9(2)(a) from Tairāwhiti REAP. Other members of the kāhui include s 9(2)(a) from Tairāwhiti REAP, s 9(2)(a) from J & S D McInnes and s 9(2)(a) from NZ Police. Waka Kotahi members are Neil Cook - Te Amorangi, Erin Wilson - Principal Advisor Māori, and Linda Stewart - Director Regional Relationships.

The impact of this initiative on the lives of people in Tairāwhiti is evident in this video featuring students telling their story of success - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9W_iNNAZkuw

The cost of driver testing time for the trial is funded from Budget 2022 where the Government committed to spending \$86.5 million over four years to help improve access to driver licensing for people with the most barriers to success. Waka Kotahi funding from Budget 2022 bid (\$16.95m) is focused on increasing both practical and theory testing services across the country as well as establishing new roles to support communities delivering driver licensing products and services.