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Reporter  
Waikato Times  
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Dear Aaron

**Request made under the Official Information Act 1982**

Thank you for your email of 24 July 2013 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, information on serious or fatal crashes involving trucks. I have set out each of your questions and our responses on the following pages.

Please note that the figures for the 2013 year are not complete as data is still being collected.

1. How many serious or fatal road crashes in the Waikato and New Zealand involved trucks, from 1 January 2002 to 1 July 2013? I would like this broken down on a yearly basis.

Please refer to Tables 1 and 2 below.

| Year           | Number of serious crashes | Number of fatal crashes |
|----------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2002           | 36                        | 15                      |
| 2003           | 35                        | 14                      |
| 2004           | 36                        | 22                      |
| 2005           | 39                        | 18                      |
| 2006           | 31                        | 12                      |
| 2007           | 24                        | 26                      |
| 2008           | 24                        | 15                      |
| 2009           | 22                        | 13                      |
| 2010           | 20                        | 9                       |
| 2011           | 26                        | 15                      |
| 2012           | 34                        | 15                      |
| 2013 (to date) | 8                         | 8                       |

Table 1: number of serious or fatal crashes involving trucks in Waikato, 1 January 2002 to 1 July 2013

| Year           | Number of serious crashes | Number of fatal crashes |
|----------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2002           | 188                       | 67                      |
| 2003           | 171                       | 60                      |
| 2004           | 202                       | 81                      |
| 2005           | 196                       | 73                      |
| 2006           | 171                       | 73                      |
| 2007           | 195                       | 65                      |
| 2008           | 181                       | 52                      |
| 2009           | 135                       | 49                      |
| 2010           | 123                       | 50                      |
| 2011           | 126                       | 45                      |
| 2012           | 142                       | 46                      |
| 2013 (to date) | 52                        | 22                      |

Table 2: number of serious or fatal crashes involving trucks in New Zealand, 1 January 2002 to 1 July 2013

2. How many serious or fatal road crashes were there in the Waikato and New Zealand between 1 January 2002 and 1 July 2013? I would like this broken down on a yearly basis.

Please refer to Tables 3 and 4 below.

| Year           | Number of serious crashes | Number of fatal crashes |
|----------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2002           | 230                       | 59                      |
| 2003           | 250                       | 71                      |
| 2004           | 250                       | 73                      |
| 2005           | 236                       | 76                      |
| 2006           | 239                       | 58                      |
| 2007           | 242                       | 82                      |
| 2008           | 273                       | 66                      |
| 2009           | 253                       | 60                      |
| 2010           | 211                       | 59                      |
| 2011           | 266                       | 56                      |
| 2012           | 241                       | 53                      |
| 2013 (to date) | 99                        | 20                      |

Table 3: number of serious or fatal crashes in Waikato, 1 January 2002 to 1 July 2013

| Year           | Number of serious crashes | Number of fatal crashes |
|----------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2002           | 2151                      | 365                     |
| 2003           | 2077                      | 405                     |
| 2004           | 2071                      | 375                     |
| 2005           | 2117                      | 341                     |
| 2006           | 2187                      | 350                     |
| 2007           | 2169                      | 375                     |
| 2008           | 2145                      | 331                     |
| 2009           | 1996                      | 337                     |
| 2010           | 1882                      | 337                     |
| 2011           | 1742                      | 259                     |
| 2012           | 1751                      | 267                     |
| 2013 (to date) | 716                       | 101                     |

Table 4: number of serious or fatal crashes in New Zealand, 1 January 2002 to 1 July 2013

3. Of the serious or fatal Waikato crashes involving trucks, when and where did these occur? ie, intersections, at night, etc.

Please refer to Tables 5 and 6 below.

| Year           | Serious crashes |       | Fatal crashes |       |         |
|----------------|-----------------|-------|---------------|-------|---------|
|                | Dark            | Light | Dark          | Light | Unknown |
| 2002           | 11              | 25    | 6             | 9     |         |
| 2003           | 10              | 25    | 6             | 8     |         |
| 2004           | 17              | 19    | 5             | 17    |         |
| 2005           | 9               | 30    | 5             | 13    |         |
| 2006           | 9               | 22    | 4             | 8     |         |
| 2007           | 7               | 17    | 10            | 16    |         |
| 2008           | 6               | 18    | 5             | 10    |         |
| 2009           | 6               | 16    | 7             | 6     |         |
| 2010           | 5               | 15    | 3             | 6     |         |
| 2011           | 3               | 23    | 5             | 9     | 1       |
| 2012           | 10              | 24    | 5             | 10    |         |
| 2013 (to date) | 4               | 4     | 3             | 5     |         |

Table 5: time of serious or fatal crashes involving trucks in Waikato, 1 January 2002 to 1 July 2013

| Year           | Serious crashes |                   | Fatal crashes |                   |
|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|
|                | Intersections   | Non-intersections | Intersections | Non-intersections |
| 2002           | 6               | 30                | 2             | 13                |
| 2003           | 10              | 25                | 5             | 9                 |
| 2004           | 15              | 21                | 2             | 20                |
| 2005           | 13              | 26                | 4             | 14                |
| 2006           | 9               | 22                | 2             | 10                |
| 2007           | 4               | 20                | 7             | 19                |
| 2008           | 4               | 20                | 4             | 11                |
| 2009           | 5               | 17                | 2             | 11                |
| 2010           | 3               | 17                | 1             | 8                 |
| 2011           | 7               | 19                | 4             | 11                |
| 2012           | 11              | 23                | 5             | 10                |
| 2013 (to date) | 1               | 7                 | 2             | 6                 |

Table 6: location of serious or fatal crashes involving trucks in Waikato, 1 January 2002 to 1 July 2013

4. Of the serious or fatal crashes nationwide involving trucks, when and where did these occur?

Please refer to Tables 7 and 8 below.

| Year           | Serious crashes |       | Fatal crashes |       |         |
|----------------|-----------------|-------|---------------|-------|---------|
|                | Dark            | Light | Dark          | Light | Unknown |
| 2002           | 39              | 149   | 25            | 42    |         |
| 2003           | 49              | 122   | 19            | 41    |         |
| 2004           | 51              | 151   | 23            | 58    |         |
| 2005           | 40              | 156   | 22            | 51    |         |
| 2006           | 47              | 124   | 21            | 52    |         |
| 2007           | 54              | 141   | 18            | 47    |         |
| 2008           | 35              | 146   | 17            | 35    |         |
| 2009           | 36              | 99    | 15            | 34    |         |
| 2010           | 25              | 98    | 16            | 34    |         |
| 2011           | 26              | 100   | 15            | 29    | 1       |
| 2012           | 29              | 113   | 12            | 34    |         |
| 2013 (to date) | 13              | 39    | 7             | 15    |         |

Table 7: time of serious or fatal crashes involving trucks in New Zealand, 1 January 2002 to 1 July 2013

| Year           | Serious crashes |                   | Fatal crashes |                   |
|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|
|                | Intersections   | Non-intersections | Intersections | Non-intersections |
| 2002           | 62              | 126               | 13            | 54                |
| 2003           | 46              | 125               | 18            | 42                |
| 2004           | 65              | 137               | 15            | 66                |
| 2005           | 65              | 131               | 20            | 53                |
| 2006           | 64              | 107               | 13            | 60                |
| 2007           | 53              | 142               | 16            | 49                |
| 2008           | 63              | 118               | 8             | 44                |
| 2009           | 39              | 96                | 13            | 36                |
| 2010           | 43              | 80                | 9             | 41                |
| 2011           | 41              | 85                | 11            | 34                |
| 2012           | 45              | 97                | 12            | 34                |
| 2013 (to date) | 18              | 34                | 7             | 15                |

Table 8: location of serious or fatal crashes involving trucks in New Zealand, 1 January 2002 to 1 July 2013

5. Of the serious or fatal Waikato crashes, how many were caused by truck drivers? What is the estimated cost of these crashes?

Please refer to Tables 9 and 10 below. You should treat the figures in Table 9 with caution. Our 'crash analysis system' data identifies culpable truck drivers but other drivers may also be at fault in some crashes. It would therefore be incorrect to say truck drivers were solely at fault in all crashes.

| Year           | Serious crashes | Fatal crashes |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 2002           | 16              | 6             |
| 2003           | 15              | 3             |
| 2004           | 21              | 8             |
| 2005           | 15              | 10            |
| 2006           | 17              | 4             |
| 2007           | 13              | 9             |
| 2008           | 11              | 3             |
| 2009           | 12              | 4             |
| 2010           | 7               | 3             |
| 2011           | 14              | 7             |
| 2012           | 19              | 2             |
| 2013 (to date) | 5               | 4             |

Table 9: number of serious or fatal crashes in Waikato caused or partially caused by truck drivers, 1 January 2002 to 1 July 2013

| Year           | Serious crashes (\$ million) | Fatal crashes (\$ million) |
|----------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2002           | 13.611                       | 28.252                     |
| 2003           | 11.344                       | 14.094                     |
| 2004           | 14.418                       | 39.054                     |
| 2005           | 11.418                       | 47.463                     |
| 2006           | 14.484                       | 19.652                     |
| 2007           | 11.729                       | 40.278                     |
| 2008           | 8.494                        | 14.244                     |
| 2009           | 8.242                        | 18.697                     |
| 2010           | 4.148                        | 14.589                     |
| 2011           | 8.788                        | 33.004                     |
| 2012           | 11.201                       | 9.726                      |
| 2013 (to date) | 2.860                        | 18.695                     |

Table 10: social cost of serious or fatal crashes in Waikato caused or partially caused by truck drivers, 1 January 2002 to 1 July 2013

More information on the social cost of crashes is available at:

<http://www.transport.govt.nz/ourwork/Land/landsafety/TheSocialCostofRoadCrashesandInjuries/>

**6. Of the serious or fatal crashes nationwide, how many were caused by truck drivers? What is the estimated cost of these crashes?**

Please refer to Tables 11 and 12 below. You should treat the figures in Table 11 with caution. Our 'crash analysis system' data identifies culpable truck drivers but other drivers may also be at fault in some crashes. It would therefore be incorrect to say truck drivers were solely at fault in all crashes.

| Year           | Serious crashes | Fatal crashes |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 2002           | 99              | 28            |
| 2003           | 89              | 22            |
| 2004           | 106             | 27            |
| 2005           | 102             | 26            |
| 2006           | 93              | 24            |
| 2007           | 121             | 23            |
| 2008           | 87              | 14            |
| 2009           | 74              | 16            |
| 2010           | 60              | 21            |
| 2011           | 62              | 17            |
| 2012           | 72              | 11            |
| 2013 (to date) | 26              | 6             |

Table 11: number of serious or fatal crashes in New Zealand caused or partially caused by truck drivers, 1 January 2002 to 1 July 2013

| Year           | Serious crashes<br>(\$ million) | Fatal crashes<br>(\$ million) |
|----------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2002           | 88.671                          | 129.255                       |
| 2003           | 67.503                          | 96.449                        |
| 2004           | 89.580                          | 127.078                       |
| 2005           | 85.744                          | 119.742                       |
| 2006           | 77.342                          | 111.689                       |
| 2007           | 103.249                         | 101.863                       |
| 2008           | 73.051                          | 62.785                        |
| 2009           | 56.992                          | 71.968                        |
| 2010           | 46.994                          | 92.140                        |
| 2011           | 51.173                          | 76.810                        |
| 2012           | 55.201                          | 49.234                        |
| 2013 (to date) | 20.028                          | 28.230                        |

Table 12: social cost of serious or fatal crashes in New Zealand caused or partially caused by truck drivers, 1 January 2002 to 1 July 2013

More information on the social cost of crashes is available at:

<http://www.transport.govt.nz/ourwork/Land/landsafety/TheSocialCostofRoadCrashesandInjuries/>

## 7. How does the agency promote the safe operation of trucks on New Zealand roads?

The NZ Transport Agency is working with our partners on implementing Safer Journeys, the government's strategy to guide improvements in road safety. The strategy envisions a safe road system increasingly free of death and serious injury and introduces the Safe System approach to New Zealand.

The Safe System approach represents a fundamental shift in the way we think about road safety. This work covers all traffic on New Zealand's roads, but there are a number of actions designed to significantly improve the safety of heavy vehicles, including trucks. Our work focuses on the four goals below. I have included examples of the work underway to advance these goals.

### Safe roads and roadsides

- Delivering the Roads of National Significance that will significantly reduce the crash risk on some of New Zealand's busiest roads that have high numbers of truck trips, such as the Waikato Expressway.
- The High-risk rural road guide was developed to assist road controlling authorities in targeting road safety improvements on the highest risk sections of New Zealand's rural roads. In some cases this includes low volume roads that have a high proportion of trucks on them.

### Safe speeds

- The Keep it 10 Below campaign encourages truck drivers to go 10 km/h under any recommended speed through corners to reduce the risk of being involved in a roll over or loss of control crash.
- The Transport Agency has also been working to promote safe and fuel efficient driver training (SAFED). These training courses provide both fuel efficiency and safety benefits.

### Safe road use

- The Operator Rating System has been developed to better identify potentially higher-risk operators for further investigation and assistance to improve their safety practices, and is used for auditing and targeting purposes.

### Safe vehicles

- The introduction of high productivity motor vehicles (HPMVs) will move more freight with fewer truck trips and improve safety. These newer and more efficient trucks being introduced to New Zealand's roads have more advanced safety features, such as electronic stability control, than the older trucks they are replacing.
- Our analysis shows that HPMV implementation will mean potential freight productivity gains in the order of a 20 percent decrease in truck trips using over-mass permits and a 14 percent decrease in trips for over-dimensioned permits. This means HPMVs will undertake 14-20 percent less travel to move the same amount of freight as standard trucks.
- This reduction in travel offers commercial benefits like reduced vehicle operating costs, driver hours, and fuel. There are also significant public benefits from reduced carbon emissions and most significantly from the reduced crash risk that fewer truck trips will give.

More information on this and other initiatives can be found on:

<http://www.saferjourneys.govt.nz/>



**8. Does the agency hold a database on the number of registered trucks operating on New Zealand and Waikato roads? If yes, could you please supply those figures?**

As confirmed with you on 1 August 2013, the Transport Agency holds the number of trucks registered, but not operating.

Total trucks registered in Waikato region as at 31 July 2013 = 66,498

Total trucks registered in New Zealand as at 31 July 2013 = 538,381

If you would like to discuss this reply with the Transport Agency, please contact Glenda Dobbyn, Waikato and Bay of Plenty Media Manager, by email to [glenda.dobbyn@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:glenda.dobbyn@nzta.govt.nz) or by phone on (07) 927 6009.

Yours sincerely



**Ernst Zöllner**  
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