



NZ TRANSPORT AGENCY
WAKA KOTAHI

7 June 2016

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Dear Sally

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 10 May 2016 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982:

- 'How much the NZTA spent on fixing/replacing signs due to vandalism each year for the last five years?'
- 'How many town/city signs have been stolen, the large green ones as you enter a town/city, each year for the last five years?'
- 'A list of all town/city signs which have been stolen over the last five years.'

Information about damaged and missing signs is attached. Please note that our response relates solely to state highways. For signs on local roads you will need to contact each of the road controlling authorities responsible for those roads.

If you would like to discuss this reply with the NZ Transport Agency, please contact Andrew Knackstedt, National Media Manager, by email to andrew.knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz or by phone on (04) 894 6285.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Young'.

Chris Young
National Manager, Network Directions and Performance

Vandalised signs

Activity associated with maintenance of signs due to vandalism specifically has only recently been introduced into our information systems (since late December 2015). We are therefore not able to provide the quantum of maintenance work completed over the last five years on State Highways solely related to vandalism.

Providing this information for a five-year period requires us to include activities that may only be indicative of vandalism (i.e. may include damage caused by weather, general wear, etc.). It is important that the caveats listed below for this information must be considered when using the data.

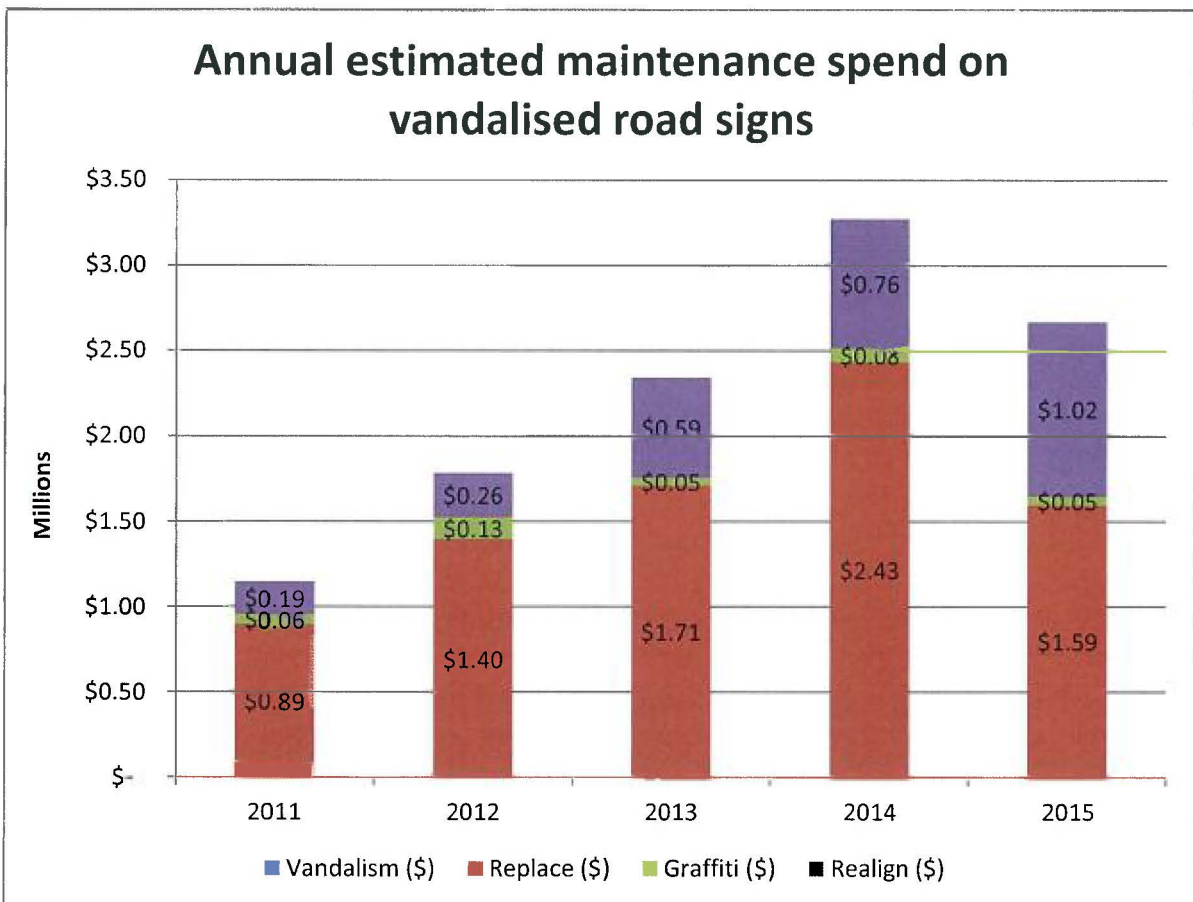
The table and graph on the following page show the cost of maintenance by the NZ Transport Agency's contractors carried out on signs that may potentially be due to vandalism, along with the number of times this sort of maintenance was carried out (indicative of the number of signs). This data is for the last five full calendar years, from January 2011 to December 2015.

Please note the following three important caveats:

- The cost amount shown here is based on indicative maintenance cost (not true cost) provided to the NZ Transport Agency by its contractors. Due to the commercially sensitive nature of this information, those figures should be regarded as estimates only.
- The category called 'Vandalism' only came into use in late December 2015. Prior to this, vandalism-related maintenance was captured under the other more generic categories such as 'Realign' or 'Replace'.
- Only "damage" related maintenance, which may include vandalism, is included in the data below. Missing signs (which may include stolen signs) have not been included, but can be provided if required.
- While 'Graffiti' is obviously vandalism, signs that needed to be 'realigned' or 'replaced' *may* have been vandalised. In those cases there is no additional data available to confirm the actual reason for the replacement or realignment.

Year	Fault	Instances	Estimated cost	Estimated annual cost
2011	Graffiti	1,019	\$ 59,793.69	\$ 1,145,448.38
	Realign	2,513	\$ 190,840.81	
	Replace	6,198	\$ 894,813.88	
2012	Graffiti	1,296	\$ 128,369.15	\$ 1,782,717.69
	Realign	3,766	\$ 258,938.48	
	Replace	7,044	\$ 1,395,410.06	
2013	Graffiti	671	\$ 45,897.69	\$ 2,342,007.15
	Realign	7,584	\$ 586,201.35	
	Replace	9,776	\$ 1,709,908.12	
2014	Graffiti	1,084	\$ 84,952.98	\$ 3,272,016.20
	Realign	9,396	\$ 755,939.74	
	Replace	10,220	\$ 2,431,123.47	
2015	Graffiti	746	\$ 53,051.35	\$ 2,668,428.52
	Realign	11,754	\$ 1,022,353.38	
	Replace	8,254	\$ 1,591,683.04	
	Vandalism	5	\$ 1,340.75	

* Costs in blue indicate confirmed vandalism



Stolen place name signs

Replacement reasons for signs include a number of options; 'Missing' is the most likely to indicate a sign was stolen or removed without permission and are distinct from signs that are replaced because they have been damaged or destroyed. This may include signs that have been damaged and removed from site, without proper notification to the local maintenance contractor.

This information does not conclusively indicate a sign was stolen, but is indicative of theft being the cause.

The following table lists the place name signs that have been replaced with a reason of 'Missing' in the last five calendar years, from January 2011 to December 2015.

There were 18 place name signs replaced for this reason. The place name indicated on the sign is provided in the table below.

Place name	Year	Replacement date	Replacement reason
Porirua	2012	30/01/2012	MISSING
Lower Hutt	2012	26/03/2012	MISSING
Lake Rotoehu	2014	28/07/2014	MISSING
Whitianga Bay	2014	22/08/2014	MISSING
Waipiro	2015	08/01/2015	MISSING
Opiki	2015	27/03/2015	MISSING
Te Kaha	2015	15/04/2015	MISSING
Oroua Downs	2015	20/04/2015	MISSING
Waingaka (LHS)	2015	23/04/2015	MISSING
Waingaka (RHS)	2015	23/04/2015	MISSING
Omaio	2015	12/05/2015	MISSING
Gisborne Point	2015	2/07/2015	MISSING
Omaio	2015	7/07/2015	MISSING
Te Kaha	2015	7/07/2015	MISSING
Makorori	2015	25/07/2015	MISSING
Hawai	2015	2/09/2015	MISSING
Maxwell	2015	9/10/2015	MISSING
Georgetown	2015	16/12/2015	MISSING