

Hon Simeon Brown

MP for Pakuranga

Minister for Energy
Minister of Local Government
Minister of Transport

Minister for Auckland
Deputy Leader of the House



Cassandra Crowley
Chair, NZ Transport Agency (NZTA)

s 9(2)(a)

11 DEC 2023

Dear Ms Crowley

As you will be aware, the National-led Government's transport sector priorities are significantly different to the previous administration, and we are placing greater emphasis on public sector spending and value-for-money. This includes developing a new Government Policy Statement on Land Transport as a matter of priority with work already underway.

For NZTA it is our desire that the entity is focussed on its core business of maintaining our roads including fixing potholes and investing in our roading network.

While NZTA also has other important roles, we are incredibly concerned that the previous Government's priorities have meant our roading network has deteriorated significantly.

I will be writing to detail my full expectations and priorities for the NZTA Board early in 2024, but in the interim, I wanted to signal my general expectation that NZTA primarily focus on its core business of road maintenance, regulatory activities and progressing roading and infrastructure projects that the entity is contractually committed to, on a "no regrets" basis.

My early focus on the Government Policy Statement (GPS) is to focus NZTA and transport investments throughout the transport system on improving the efficiency of the transport network, improving productivity, and making sure there is good value for taxpayer money.

This means that we will be making significant changes to the Activity Classes within the GPS, which will see less focus on initiatives such as speed limit reductions, raised platform crossings, walking and cycling and other initiatives which simply make it less convenient for motorists. We will be requiring a rebalancing of safety with efficiency.

Our focus will be on reintroducing the Roads of National Significance and maintaining the roading asset to a better standard.

In addition, I expect the NZTA Board to very carefully consider the value-for-money of any potential new investment decisions that have significant and/or long-term financial implications for the entity. More broadly, I expect the Board to ensure that NZTA's processes are consistent with the policy and processes outlined in Cabinet Office Circular [CO 23 \(9\): Investment Management and Asset Performance in Departments and Other Entities](#).

For the avoidance of doubt, my expectations outlined in this letter do not override the Board's independent decision-making rights under the Land Transport Management Act 2003, which I acknowledge.

I look forward to working with the Board to deliver the Government's ambitious transport sector objectives and priorities.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Simeon Brown', written over a horizontal line.

Hon Simeon Brown
Minister of Transport

Released under the Official Information Act 1982