

18 March 2024

██████████
██

REF: OIA-14765

Dear ██████████

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 23 February 2024 requesting the following information regarding an engine braking noise camera trial under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). I will respond to each part of your request in turn as follows:

1. Did the trial take place?

Yes, the trial was undertaken in Tauranga from late 2013 to mid-2014.

2. Can you advise on the results of this trial

Findings from the trial are summarised in a leaflet which is available on the NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) website at <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/assets/Highways-Information-Portal/Technical-disciplines/Noise-and-vibration/Research-and-information/Leaflets/NZTA-truck-engine-braking-Noise-camera-v1.0.pdf>.

3. What further actions took place by Waka Kotahi after this trial

Following the trial, camera deployments occurred around New Zealand from 2014 to 2020. In 2017 a second engine-braking noise camera was purchased. During 2018 and 2019 a bespoke engine-braking noise camera system was commissioned by NZTA and 8 additional detectors were deployed. To date, engine-braking detecting noise cameras have been deployed in Northland, Auckland, Tauranga, Wellington, Christchurch and South Canterbury.

4. Were any cameras rolled out in NZ after this trial.

Many deployments have occurred as described. Each deployment usually lasts for several months and there are no permanent deployments. The cameras also do not issue tickets or produce evidence for enforcement; rather, they identify noise that could be engine-braking and capture the registration plate of the vehicle that could be the source. This information can then be used for public engagement, research or to liaise with truck operators.

5. What was the budget for this trial.

The trial in Tauranga incurred external costs of approximately \$100,000 for the development and procurement of the camera and processing software, as well as installation and review of data over the 32 weeks of the camera operation. In addition to external costs, there was staff time from various NZTA employees.

NZTA also maintains a list of frequently asked questions about noise and vibration which is available on our website at: <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/roads-and-rail/highways-information-portal/technical-disciplines/environment-and-sustainability-in-our-operations/environmental-technical-areas/noise-and-vibration/frequently-asked-questions/>.

In line with Waka Kotahi policy, this response will soon be published on our website, with personal information removed.

If you would like to discuss this reply with NZTA, please contact us by email to official.correspondence@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive 'D' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Dylan Hunt
Senior Manager, Safer Commercial Transport