

Weigh Right Programme: Mackays Crossing commercial vehicle safety centre



What is the Weigh Right Programme?

At Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency, we're aiming for a road system free of death and serious injury. We also want to have a productive land transport system that supports a level playing field for the heavy vehicle industry. The Weigh Right Programme is one way we are delivering that.

The programme will install roadside technology and develop intelligent software to direct potentially overloaded vehicles into commercial vehicle safety centres throughout New Zealand. In time we'll increase the number of locations and enhance the technology to screen across multiple areas of vehicle and driver compliance.

What is a commercial vehicle safety centre (CVSC)?

CVSCs were formerly known as weigh stations. They are sites where enforcement officers undertake checks including, but not limited to, weight, road user charges (RUC), certificate of fitness (CoF), logbook, and alcohol and drugs. There are 12 CVSCs planned throughout New Zealand.

What is vehicle screening technology for weight and how does it work?

Vehicle screening involves weigh-in-motion or in-road scales, automatic number plate recognition cameras and electronic signs all working together to identify potentially overweight vehicles.

When the NZ Police Commercial Vehicle Safety Team (CVST) is targeting weight compliance, heavy vehicles screened as potentially overloaded will be directed into a CVSC to have their official weight checked on the weigh bridge.

What are some other reasons why heavy vehicles may be pulled into a CVSC?

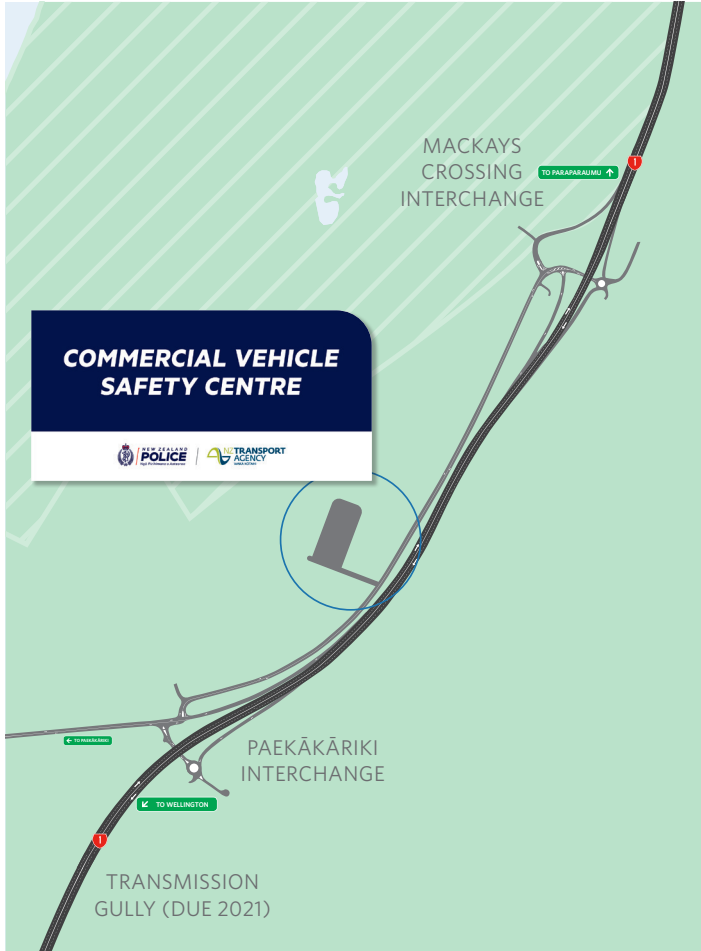
As well as pulling in vehicles because of potential loading problems, the CVST may choose to operate the sites to check safety and compliance issues that cannot currently be detected by the weigh-in-motion scales. Drivers will see the sign 'All heavy vehicles stop 750m'.

What is a heavy vehicle?

A heavy vehicle is any vehicle, including a bus, coach or mobile home, that weighs more than 3500kg.

Where is the proposed CVSC located?

The Mackays Crossing proposed CVSC site is situated between the Mackays Crossing and Paekākāriki Interchanges, in the area known locally as the 'sandpit'. This area is currently used for storage of materials from the Transmission Gully project.



Why did you choose this site?

The CVSC sites are on routes that cover 46% of the total freight kilometres travelled in New Zealand. All CVSCs are close to major centres, sea ports or significant highway junctions and at locations it is difficult for heavy vehicles to avoid. They also need to be located where heavy vehicles can safely and easily get on and off the state highway.

Following community feedback about a proposed site at Emerald Glen, we looked at 14 sites between Ōtaki and Plimmerton. For all 14 sites we considered the following:

- Good ground conditions
- Fewer than two avoidance routes
- Safe and achievable access
- A diversion of less than 5km
- No obvious significant extra costs (e.g. construction of a new exit or entry ramp, or two sites to capture all traffic)

The Mackays Crossing site was chosen because of its safety and environmental factors, solid ground conditions, and ease of access from the state highway. It is on a site already set aside for use in connection with a road, and would not result in the loss of recreational reserve land.

Why was this site not previously considered?

At the time of previous investigations this site was still expected to be required for Transmission Gully construction activities. While there are major activities within the site remaining, such as the storage of materials needed to complete Transmission Gully, we have now discussed the possibility of using part of the site with the contractor. Given it is our preferred option they have agreed to work with us on establishing early entry to the site and allow construction of the initial components of the CVSC.

How many heavy vehicles will use the Mackays Crossing CVSC?

It is expected that the Mackays Crossing CVSC will be able to fit up to eight heavy vehicles at any one time. The number of vehicles using the CVSC in a period will depend on the duration of operations by NZ Police to perform checks on vehicles.