

MINO-1105 – Tolling on RoNS

26 June 2024

We are providing advice on the tolling on Roads of National Significance (RoNS) and the Land Transport Rule: Vehicle Dimensions and Mass 2016 (VDAM Rule) following correspondence the Minister's Office received from **section 9(2)(a)** at NZ Heavy Haulage Association on 17 June 2024.

NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) response:

- As per **section 9(2)(a)** email, Schedule 8 of the VDAM Rule details that over-dimension (OD) vehicles with loads that exceed 3.1m in width or 4.8m in height are not permitted to travel on any toll route unless NZTA as the road controlling authority (RCAs) has provided explicit authority to do so, including an authority to travel that NZTA may issue to an operator.
- The restrictions on these OD vehicles were to ensure travel times of the wider toll-paying public would not be greatly impacted by these large freight vehicles.
- Note that the NZ Heavy Haulage Association has tried to lobby for OD vehicles to be allowed on toll roads in the past, as many of the toll road bypass routes for OD vehicles now have restrictions that impede heavy freight, such as steep road humps, or they have been through a beautification process which has decreased the width of the road.
- Regarding the Northern Gateway Toll Road, NZTA is considering a 'blanket exemption' for this road as this route is easier for OD vehicle loads and is also safer with the Northern Gateway Toll Road being a two lane, one direction road, with wire rope barriers on either side. This is close to resolution and there is just the remaining issue of an alarm being activated at the Auckland Transport Operation Centre when a vehicle exceeds 4.6m in the Johnsons Hill Tunnel.
- Also, regarding the assertion that OD vehicles have to detour though Te Puke, there is already a 'blanket exemption' for the Tauranga Eastern Link Toll Road on our website, which can be found here: www.nzta.govt.nz/assets/Commercial-Driving/docs/Tauranga-Eastern-Link-explicit-authority-for-travel-on-toll-route-20201020.pdf.
- Please note that the Ministry of Transport (MoT) is leading the drafting of a ministerial response to the 17 June 2024 email from **section 9(2)(a)** and this advice will inform NZTA's input to MoT.

Noted by Minister ☐