

**From:**

[Chris Bunny](#)

**To:**

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**Cc:**

**Subject:**

CERF Programme update

**Date:**

Friday, 26 January 2024 12:26:37 pm

**Attachments:**

[image001.png](#)

Kia ora koutou

I hope you were all able to enjoy time away from work over the holidays and had a relaxing break with friends and whānau.

Following on from the Teams call I held at the end of last year (Wednesday 20 December), I wanted to share an update with you.

In the call, I confirmed that NZTA had received advice from the Minister that there will be no further funding for the Transport Choices programme beyond those projects with approved Schedule 2 (construction/implementation) funding, and that NZTA's involvement in VKT reduction planning work will end.

In addition, in the Government's mini-budget at the end of last year, it was announced that there will be changes to the funding arrangements for the Community Connect Concessions Scheme. The Government will continue with Crown funding support for half-price public transport concessions for Community Services Card holders and 75% discounts for users of Total Mobility services. However, Crown funding for free fares for 5-12-year-olds and half-price fares for 13-24 year-olds on public transport will end on 30 April 2024. We are still awaiting direction on the other Public Transport initiatives within the CERF programme.

Key messaging (for internal use only) for the CERF programme is available [here](#).

We're now looking at what the above direction means for the CERF programme and working through a sensible timeframe to close out work that is no longer required, while also ensuring the work that does need to continue is appropriately provided for. We're still in the process of working through the details about what this means, but I expect that we will be able to provide some more clarity about next steps and an indicative timeline by the week of 5 February.

I appreciate that for many of you this situation is very unsettling. We are committed to sharing further information as and when we are able to, and please remember that you can raise any questions or feedback with myself or your people leaders. Laurie Benson and Petra Bulandova are also available from HR.

I also want to remind you that EAP (Employee Assistance Programme) is available to provide free and confidential support at any time. I would encourage you to take advantage of this if you

think it might be helpful for you. EAP can be accessed by calling 0800 327 669.

We have also shared what we know with unions and you can seek advice and support from them directly if you are a member.

Ngā mihi  
Chris

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