

Ken Ng

From: section 9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 6 August 2024 10:14 am
To: Ken Ng
Subject: FW: Bus crash - SH 8 - Tekapo

Importance: High

From: section 9(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2024 9:22 AM
To: Andrew Clark <Andrew.Clark1@nzta.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Bus crash - SH 8 - Tekapo
Importance: High

FYI

From: Andy Knackstedt <Andy.Knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2024 9:19 AM
To: section 9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: section 9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz>; Mark Nicholson <Mark.Nicholson@nzta.govt.nz>
Subject: Bus crash - SH 8 - Tekapo
Importance: High

Hi section 9(2)

Just making you aware of the event detailed in the report below – we’ve had two mid-size buses roll over on SH8 this morning. We’re still waiting on details of the extent of injuries from Police/FENZ, who are on-site. The road is closed from Lake Tekapo to the intersection of SH80 at Lake Pukaki.

We’ll provide more detail as it comes in.

Andy



Traffic Road Event Information System

Event # 473565

This is an automatically generated message - do not reply

Location Area

SH 8 Lake Tekapo to Lake Pukaki (Simons Pass)

Location(s) 008-0131/16.68-B - 008-0099/02.43-B END PUKAKI DAM STRUCTURE TO RS 146 (JUST EAST OF SH 80) to TEKAPO WEST THRESHOLD 60100 TO FORKS STRM EAST ABUT

Event Type Area Warning

Event Description Crash

Event Comments Due to a crash near Hayman Road intersection SH8 is closed between Lake Tekapo and Lake Pukaki. Road users are advised to delay their travel or avoid the area if possible.

Impact Road Closed

Closure Start Date 18/07/2024 09:00

Alternative Route Consider alternate route

Status Active

Expected Resolution Until further notice

Supplier Official

Information Source Fire Service

Event Reported By Comms

Event Start Date 18/07/2024 08:44

Modified System Date 18/07/2024 09:05

Responsible NMC Downer - South Canterbury

Significant No

NMC Called Downer (24/7) 03 687 2751

Comments F4014215 Report of a bus which has rolled off the road. No detail on direction, injury status, numbers or size of the bus. FENZ inbound, requesting contractor assistance. NOC advised. 09:00hrs NOC on site. Two class 4 busses both rolled. Road to be closed from Lake Tekapo to the intersection of SH80 at Lake Pukaki. P059377756 Police inbound. Reports of multiple injuries. VMS to be activated.

Direct Line Distance

Event Id [473565](#)

Event Entered By section 9(2)(a)

Creating Organisation NZTA via NIEMS

Event Updated By section 9(2)(a)

Updater Organisation NZTA via NIEMS

Updates have been made to the road event, the changes are:

Change	Location Area
From	SH 8 Lake Pukaki, near Hayman Road intersection
To	SH 8 Lake Tekapo to Lake Pukaki (Simons Pass)

Change	Event Comments
From	Due to a crash, caution is advised when travelling through the area.
To	Due to a crash near Hayman Road intersection SH8 is closed between Lake Tekapo and Lake Pukaki. Road users are advised to delay their travel or avoid the area if possible.

Change	Impact
From	Caution
To	Road Closed
Change	Closure Start Date
From	nothing
To	18/07/2024 09:00
Change	Alternative Route
From	Not Applicable
To	Consider alternate route
Change	Supplier
From	Unofficial
To	Official
Change	Modified System Date
From	18/07/2024 09:03
To	18/07/2024 09:05
Change	Comments
From	F4014215 Report of a bus which has rolled off the road. No detail on direction, injury status, numbers or size of the bus. FENZ inbound, requesting contractor assistance. NOC advised.
To	F4014215 Report of a bus which has rolled off the road. No detail on direction, injury status, numbers or size of the bus. FENZ inbound, requesting contractor assistance. NOC advised. 09:00hrs NOC on site. Two class 4 busses both rolled. Road to be closed from Lake Tekapo to the intersection of SH80 at Lake Pukaki. P059377756 Police inbound. Reports of multiple injuries. VMS to be activated.

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Ken Ng

From: section 9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz
Sent: Tuesday, 6 August 2024 10:12 am
To: Ken Ng
Subject: FW: Urgent note on conditions near bus crash

From: Andy Knackstedt <Andrew.Knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2024 11:51 AM
To: section 9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz; Andrew Clark <Andrew.Clark1@nzta.govt.nz>; Mark Nicholson <Mark.Nicholson@nzta.govt.nz>
Cc: Official Correspondence <Official.Correspondence@nzta.govt.nz>; Leisa Coley <Leisa.Coley@nzta.govt.nz>; Mark Pinner <mark.pinner@nzta.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Urgent note on conditions near bus crash

Sorry, here's the link to the PR:

<https://www.nzta.govt.nz/media-releases/winter-conditions-on-south-island-highways-drivers-urged-to-take-extra-care/>

we also put out a statement last week warning of ice/snow and urging people to take extra care during the school holidays.

<https://nzta.govt.nz/media-releases/frosty-slippery-conditions-on-southern-highways-over-school-holidays/>

From: Andy Knackstedt
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2024 11:49 AM
To: section 9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz; Andrew Clark <Andrew.Clark1@nzta.govt.nz>; Mark Nicholson <Mark.Nicholson@nzta.govt.nz>
Cc: Official Correspondence <Official.Correspondence@nzta.govt.nz>; Leisa Coley <Leisa.Coley@nzta.govt.nz>; Mark Pinner <mark.pinner@nzta.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Urgent note on conditions near bus crash

Hi section 9(2)(a)

Fyi, we issued the PR below at 11am.

We also have several media queries asking about the process for closing state highways – I've got Mark Pinner, Tresca Forrester and Nicole Felts reviewing the draft points below as a standard response:

NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) aims to ensure that state highways remain open, accessible and safe for road users. State highways are only closed when they are impassable or unsafe for travel.

Decisions to close highways are made by NZTA contractors (under delegation), or by NZ Police.

NZTA provides a winter maintenance programme for the state highway network which uses a range of preventative and responsive monitoring and work to reduce risks and address hazards. This includes working closely with MetService to identify parts of the state highway network at risk of being affected by winter conditions such as ice, snow and fog.

NZTA contractors have two primary responses to address the risk of ice on state highways – the spraying of ice-preventing CMA (Calcium Magnesium Acetate) and the application of grit where ice is already forming.

CMA is used with targeted coverage prior to the onset of frosts where ice is expected, while grit is used reactively, generally applied as ice is forming on the road surface. While the application of grit helps to improve traction, the presence of grit on the road surface is also an important indication for drivers that ice is present on the road surface, and extra care is required.

On any given day during winter there will be several trucks spreading grit on South Island highways. The trucks are all well-lit, and display clear signage telling drivers that grit is being applied. The trucks generally travel at a slower speed to ensure the grit is spread evenly, and we ask drivers to slow down and take care around these vehicles.

Roading contractors or Police can close state highways (or local roads) where and when they assess that the roads are impassable or unsafe to use.

Winter weather can change very quickly, with micro-climates developing in many areas, meaning conditions can vary widely and change quickly. The presence of ice in particular can be very isolated and may only be present for brief periods of time.

Given the unpredictable nature of winter driving conditions, it's important that drivers take extra care in winter, which means slowing down, increasing following distances and anticipating potentially slippery surfaces on bridge decks, corners and areas that miss out on the sun in winter.

Tips for safe journeys this winter

- Drive slower than you normally would – it only takes a split second to lose control in wet or icy conditions.
- Avoid sudden braking or turning movements that could cause you to skid.
- Accelerate smoothly and brake gently.
- Use your highest gear when travelling uphill and your lowest downhill.
- For vehicles without anti-skid braking systems, to avoid skidding or sliding, smoothly pump the brake pedal in short bursts rather than pressing long and hard.
- Drive at a safe travelling distance because it takes longer to stop on slippery roads.
- In winter, especially in frosty or icy weather, double the two-second rule and leave a safe distance between you and the car you're following.
- When travelling in fog, rain or snow, drive with your lights dipped for increased safety.
- Make sure everyone is wearing their seat belt throughout the full journey.
- Plan your trip to avoid the coldest times of the day or night if you can.

From: section 9(2)(a) <[REDACTED]@parliament.govt.nz>

Sent: Friday, July 19, 2024 11:43 AM

To: Andrew Clark <Andrew.Clark1@nzta.govt.nz>; Andy Knackstedt <Andrew.Knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz>; Mark Nicholson <Mark.Nicholson@nzta.govt.nz>

Cc: Official Correspondence <Official.Correspondence@nzta.govt.nz>; Leisa Coley <Leisa.Coley@nzta.govt.nz>

Subject: Urgent note on conditions near bus crash

Hey team,

The Ministers just called me as he's been getting questions/hearing of talk around the road conditions down south yesterday in the vicinity of the bus crashes and whether NZTA has responded appropriately to reports.

Apparently people had called NZTA to report black ice but didn't see any action from NZTA.

Can I please urgently get some information to pass on to the Minister around the road conditions down south and how NZTA is managing this/what information is being made available to motorists, what channels etc.

Can I please get something ideally by midday? (or as soon as)

Thanks,

section 9(2)(b)

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Ken Ng

From: [section 9\(2\)\(a\)](#) @parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 6 August 2024 10:12 am
To: Ken Ng
Subject: FW: Serious Incident - Bus Crash

Categories: Red Category

From: [section 9\(2\)\(a\)](#)
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2024 12:00 PM
To: Andy Knackstedt <Andrew.Knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz>
Cc: Andrew Clark <Andrew.Clark1@nzta.govt.nz>; Mark Nicholson <Mark.Nicholson@nzta.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Serious Incident - Bus Crash

Thanks – this is perfect, will just await confirmation before I pass on (and will advise caution noting Police investigation is on going).

From: Andy Knackstedt <Andrew.Knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2024 11:56 AM
To: [section 9\(2\)\(a\)](#) @parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Andrew Clark <Andrew.Clark1@nzta.govt.nz>; Mark Nicholson <Mark.Nicholson@nzta.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Serious Incident - Bus Crash

Hi [section 9\(2\)\(a\)](#)

Will need Mark Pinner to confirm, but the highlighted points below are relevant.

Cheers,

Andy

From: Scott Childs <scott.childs@nzta.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2024 11:05 AM
To: Leisa Coley <Leisa.Coley@nzta.govt.nz>; Richard May <Richard.May@nzta.govt.nz>; Official Correspondence <Official.Correspondence@nzta.govt.nz>; Tom James <Tom.James@nzta.govt.nz>; Brett Gliddon <Brett.Gliddon@nzta.govt.nz>; Andy Knackstedt <Andrew.Knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz>; Andrew Clark <Andrew.Clark1@nzta.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Serious Incident - Bus Crash

Hello, Please see below latest update:

- 2 tourist coaches heading towards Twizel have left the road at Simons Pass and rolled, 1 x confirmed fatality, multiple injuries
- Winter crews had been out since 5am spreading ice grit, and this location had 4 x passes with grit spread on each occasion
- Contractors confirmed at 7:30am today that all roads were in a dry state and passable without issue. There was fog around, and subzero temperatures.
- The road is closed at SH8/80 Mount Cook intersection and Tekapo west.
- Police SCU onsite

Regards,
Scott

Scott Childs

Senior Manager, Operations

Email: scott.childs@nzta.govt.nz

Mobile: [section 9\(2\)\(a\)](#)

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency

Auckland, Level 5, AON Centre, 29 Customs Street West

Private Bag 106602, Auckland 1143, New Zealand

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#)



www.nzta.govt.nz

From: Leisa Coley <Leisa.Coley@nzta.govt.nz>

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2024 9:39 AM

To: Scott Childs <scott.childs@nzta.govt.nz>; Richard May <Richard.May@nzta.govt.nz>; Official Correspondence <Official.Correspondence@nzta.govt.nz>; Tom James <Tom.James@nzta.govt.nz>; Brett Gliddon <Brett.Gliddon@nzta.govt.nz>

Cc: Andy Knackstedt <Andrew.Knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: Serious Incident - Bus Crash

Thanks so much Scott – Andy K has alerted the office and ELT. When you know more would be good to connect with him as well

Leisa

From: Scott Childs <scott.childs@nzta.govt.nz>

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2024 9:37 AM

To: Leisa Coley <Leisa.Coley@nzta.govt.nz>; Richard May <Richard.May@nzta.govt.nz>; Official Correspondence <Official.Correspondence@nzta.govt.nz>; Tom James <Tom.James@nzta.govt.nz>; Brett Gliddon <Brett.Gliddon@nzta.govt.nz>

Subject: Serious Incident - Bus Crash

Hello,

There has been a serious incident with two buses crashing on SH 8 north of Twizel at approximately 8:40am this morning. Early reports are multiple injuries and fatalities.

There was both black ice and fog reported at the time.

Further update when there is more information.

Regards,
Scott

Scott Childs

Senior Manager, Operations

Email: scott.childs@nzta.govt.nz

Mobile: [section 9\(2\)\(a\)](#)

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Ken Ng

From: [section 9\(2\)\(a\)](#) @parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 6 August 2024 10:13 am
To: Ken Ng
Subject: FW: Serious Incident - Bus Crash

Categories: Red Category

From: Leisa Coley <Leisa.Coley@nzta.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2024 12:08 PM
To: [section 9\(2\)\(a\)](#) @parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Serious Incident - Bus Crash

From: Scott Childs <scott.childs@nzta.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2024 11:10 AM
To: Leisa Coley <Leisa.Coley@nzta.govt.nz>; Richard May <Richard.May@nzta.govt.nz>; Official Correspondence <Official.Correspondence@nzta.govt.nz>; Tom James <Tom.James@nzta.govt.nz>; Brett Gliddon <Brett.Gliddon@nzta.govt.nz>; Andy Knackstedt <Andrew.Knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz>; Andrew Clark <Andrew.Clark1@nzta.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Serious Incident - Bus Crash

Hello,

There is an update that there has been miscommunication between FENZ and police, and there are no fatalities, however multiple injuries.

Regards,
Scott

Scott Childs

Senior Manager, Operations

Email: scott.childs@nzta.govt.nz

Mobile: [section 9\(2\)\(a\)](#)

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency

Auckland, Level 5, AON Centre, 29 Customs Street West
Private Bag 106602, Auckland 1143, New Zealand

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www.nzta.govt.nz

From: Scott Childs
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2024 11:05 AM
To: Leisa Coley <Leisa.Coley@nzta.govt.nz>; Richard May <Richard.May@nzta.govt.nz>; Official Correspondence <Official.Correspondence@nzta.govt.nz>; Tom James <Tom.James@nzta.govt.nz>; Brett Gliddon

<Brett.Gliddon@nzta.govt.nz>; Andy Knackstedt <Andrew.Knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz>; Andrew Clark <Andrew.Clark1@nzta.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: Serious Incident - Bus Crash

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- Winter crews had been out since 5am spreading ice grit, and this location had 4 x passes with grit spread on each occasion
- Contractors confirmed at 7:30am today that all roads were in a dry state and passable without issue. There was fog around, and subzero temperatures.
- The road is closed at SH8/80 Mount Cook intersection and Tekapo west.
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Regards,
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Scott Childs

Senior Manager, Operations

Email: scott.childs@nzta.govt.nz

Mobile: [section 9\(2\)\(a\)](#)

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To: Scott Childs <scott.childs@nzta.govt.nz>; Richard May <Richard.May@nzta.govt.nz>; Official Correspondence <Official.Correspondence@nzta.govt.nz>; Tom James <Tom.James@nzta.govt.nz>; Brett Gliddon <Brett.Gliddon@nzta.govt.nz>

Cc: Andy Knackstedt <Andrew.Knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: Serious Incident - Bus Crash

Thanks so much Scott – Andy K has alerted the office and ELT. When you know more would be good to connect with him as well

Leisa

From: Scott Childs <scott.childs@nzta.govt.nz>

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2024 9:37 AM

To: Leisa Coley <Leisa.Coley@nzta.govt.nz>; Richard May <Richard.May@nzta.govt.nz>; Official Correspondence <Official.Correspondence@nzta.govt.nz>; Tom James <Tom.James@nzta.govt.nz>; Brett Gliddon <Brett.Gliddon@nzta.govt.nz>

Subject: Serious Incident - Bus Crash

Hello,

There has been a serious incident with two buses crashing on SH 8 north of Twizel at approximately 8:40am this morning. Early reports are multiple injuries and fatalities.
There was both black ice and fog reported at the time.

Further update when there is more information.

Regards,
Scott

Scott Childs

Senior Manager, Operations

Email: scott.childs@nzta.govt.nz

Mobile: section 9(2)(a)

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency

Auckland, Level 5, AON Centre, 29 Customs Street West
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Ken Ng

From: section 9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 6 August 2024 10:13 am
To: Ken Ng
Subject: FW: SH8 crashes, winter driving. road closures - media queries

From: Andy Knackstedt <Andrew.Knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2024 1:16 PM
To: section 9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Mark Nicholson <Mark.Nicholson@nzta.govt.nz>; section 9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: SH8 crashes, winter driving. road closures - media queries

Hi section 9(2)

We've had several media queries this morning (two from *Stuff*, *TVNZ*, *RNZ*), all asking variations on the questions further below from one of the *Stuff* reporters.

We issued the media statement below with general advice for drivers and background info on our winter maintenance activities:

<https://www.nzta.govt.nz/media-releases/winter-conditions-on-south-island-highways-drivers-urged-to-take-extra-care/>

This follows a media statement issued last week warning of ice/snow and urging people to take extra care during the school holidays.

<https://nzta.govt.nz/media-releases/frosty-slippery-conditions-on-southern-highways-over-school-holidays/>

I've put the response below together which we will use as a standard response to the current enquiries on SH8.

Cheers,

Andy K

As with all serious crashes on the state highway network, NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) will complete an investigation of the road and roadside conditions at the site of yesterday's bus crashes on SH8, alongside Police investigations. The condition of both buses will also be examined as part of the investigation.

NZTA issued an area warning at 9am on Wednesday 17 July advising of black ice and winter driving conditions in the area. Roadside Variable Messaging Signs (VMS) were activated from that time to advise drivers of the conditions.

NZTA can also confirm that contractors were actively spreading ice grit on this section of SH8 from 5am yesterday (18 July).

NZTA aims to ensure that state highways remain open, accessible and safe for road users.

Decisions to close state highways are made by NZTA contractors (under delegation), or by NZ Police, based on the conditions at the time.

NZTA provides a winter maintenance programme for the state highway network which uses a range of preventative and responsive monitoring and work to reduce risks and address hazards. This includes

working closely with MetService to identify parts of the state highway network at risk of being affected by winter conditions such as ice, snow and fog.

NZTA contractors have two primary responses to address the risk of ice on state highways – the spraying of ice-preventing CMA (Calcium Magnesium Acetate) and the application of grit where ice is already forming.

CMA is used with targeted coverage prior to the onset of frosts where ice is expected, while grit is used reactively, generally applied as ice is forming on the road surface. While the application of grit helps to improve traction, the presence of grit on the road surface is also an important indication for drivers that ice is present on the road surface, and extra care is required.

On any given day during winter there will be several trucks spreading grit on South Island highways. The trucks are all well-lit, and display clear signage telling drivers that grit is being applied. The trucks generally travel at a slower speed to ensure the grit is spread evenly, and we ask drivers to slow down and take care around these vehicles.

Roading contractors or Police can close state highways (or local roads) where and when they assess that the roads are impassable or unsafe to use.

Winter weather can change very quickly, with micro-climates developing in many areas, meaning conditions can vary widely and change quickly. The presence of ice in particular can be very isolated and may only be present for brief periods of time, it can form after daybreak even if other vehicles have travelled through prior, so care is needed at all times.

Given the unpredictable nature of winter driving conditions, it's important that drivers take extra care in winter, which means slowing down, increasing following distances and anticipating potentially slippery surfaces on bridge decks, corners and areas that miss out on the sun in winter.

Tips for safe journeys this winter

- Drive slower than you normally would – it only takes a split second to lose control in wet or icy conditions.
- Avoid sudden braking or turning movements that could cause you to skid.
- Accelerate smoothly and brake gently.
- Use your highest gear when travelling uphill and your lowest downhill.
- For vehicles without anti-skid braking systems, to avoid skidding or sliding, smoothly pump the brake pedal in short bursts rather than pressing long and hard.
- Drive at a safe travelling distance because it takes longer to stop on slippery roads.
- In winter, especially in frosty or icy weather, double the two-second rule and leave a safe distance between you and the car you're following.
- When travelling in fog, rain or snow, drive with your lights dipped for increased safety.
- Make sure everyone is wearing their seat belt throughout the full journey.
- Plan your trip to avoid the coldest times of the day or night if you can.

From: section 9(2)(a) @stuff.co.nz
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2024 10:21 AM
To: Andy Knackstedt <Andrew.Knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz>
Subject: Fwd: Questions on SH8

You don't often get email from section 9(2)(a) @stuff.co.nz. [Learn why this is important](#)

Morena Andrew

I'm doing a wider story on SH8 and was wondering if you would be able to give us a response on these questions this morning:

Why does Waka Kotahi not close the SH8 when it's so icy in the morning and evenings?

What process does Waka Kotahi go through when deciding to close a road?
How many times this winter has WK closed the road because of ice?
What makes the road so dangerous i.e the mix of conditions that make the black ice?
If people have to travel on it, how should they proceed safely?
Is the road closed now?

Kind regards

section 9(2)(a)

--
Ngā Mihi

section 9(2)(a)

She/Her
Senior Reporter
National Affairs/In Depth
STUFF

E [section 9\(2\)\(a\)@stuff.co.nz](mailto:section 9(2)(a)@stuff.co.nz) | P 021 341 293
Press House, 158 Gloucester Street, Christchurch 8011, New Zealand
PO Box 4722, Christchurch 8041



--
Ngā Mihi

section 9(2)(a)

She/Her
Senior Reporter
National Affairs/In Depth
STUFF

E [section 9\(2\)\(a\)@stuff.co.nz](mailto:section 9(2)(a)@stuff.co.nz) | P 021 341 293
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PO Box 4722, Christchurch 8041



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