



10 June 2026

OC260457

Hon Chris Bishop

Action required by:

Minister of Transport

Wednesday, 17 June 2026

cc Hon James Meager

Associate Minister of Transport

JUNE 2026 UPDATE ON THE LAND TRANSPORT RULES REFORM PROGRAMME

Purpose

To provide a programme-wide update on the progress of the workstreams within the Land Transport Rules Reform Programme (the Programme), including key upcoming milestones and changes to timelines following fuel response work, and to seek approval to update industry stakeholders.

Key points

- Fuel response work accelerated change for parts of the Heavy Vehicle Productivity workstream but led to a delay of approximately a month for most other workstreams as resource was prioritised to deliver fuel response work.
- Most workstreams will have legislative changes agreed by September 2026.
- We are assessing a long-list of potential proposals for inclusion in the next tranche of the Rules Reform Programme and will advise you after an initial prioritisation exercise has been completed.

Recommendations

We recommend you:

- 1 **note** the updated timelines for the programme following fuel response work.
- 2 **agree** that officials update industry stakeholders on the progress of the Programme based on the contents of this briefing. Yes / No
- 3 **agree** to proactively release this briefing with redactions made consistent with the Official Information Act 1982. Yes / No

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Chris Bishop
Minister of Transport

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Minister’s office to complete:

- ☐ Approved
- ☐ Declined
- ☐ Seen by Minister
- ☐ Not seen by Minister
- ☐ Overtaken by events

Comments

Contacts

Name	Telephone	First contact
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		✓

**ANNEX 1 LAND TRANSPORT RULES REFORM PROGRAMME UPDATE JUNE
2026**

Land Transport Rules Reform Programme update – June 2026

Project	Responsible Minister	Description	Status	Next briefing	Public consultation	Policy decisions (decision maker)	Rule change
Warrant of Fitness/Certificate of Fitness B frequency for light vintage vehicles and private motorhomes	Bishop	This workstream reduced Warrant of Fitness and Certificate of Fitness B frequency for light vintage/veteran vehicles and privately-owned heavy motorhomes from every 6 months to every 12 months. This change reduced regulatory and compliance time burdens on these vehicle owners.	Changes came into effect on 1 September 2025	Complete			
Review of Warrant of Fitness/Certificate of Fitness A inspection requirements for light vehicles	Meager	This workstream reduced light vehicle inspection frequency to reduce compliance costs for the public. These changes will be complemented by changes to inspection scope, public education and enforcement aimed at strengthening vehicle roadworthiness.	Changes will come into effect from 1 November 2026	Complete			
Additional safety requirements for vehicle imports	Meager	This workstream considers requiring additional safety features in new and used, light and heavy vehicles. The objective is to improve the quality and safety of vehicles entering New Zealand's fleet over time, contributing to reductions in deaths and serious injuries.	Minister Meager has taken decisions on the scope and implementation dates for each proposed safety feature requirement [OC260145 refers]. Ministerial and departmental consultation on the Cabinet paper that seeks policy decisions is now underway. The Ministry will provide Minister Meager with a briefing on 17 June 2026 seeking his agreement to lodge the Cabinet paper.	17 June 2026	Complete	29 June 2026 (Cabinet)	September 2026
Improved use of lane rules and traffic control devices	Bishop	The workstream allows common-sense changes to lane use such as e-scooters in cycle lanes, allowing children on bicycles on footpaths, a minimum overtaking gap, and a requirement to give way to buses leaving bus stops. It also allows for 44 minor and technical amendments to the Land Transport Rule: Traffic Control Devices 2004.	Public consultation has closed, with more than 6,000 submissions received on the five lane use proposals. We will provide a Cabinet paper and section 164(2) analysis to you in July and are working with PCO to draft rule changes.	22 July 2026	Complete	Complete	August 2026
Heavy vehicle productivity Phases 1 and 2	Bishop	The first phase includes proposals to remove 50MAX permit requirements, to remove H plate requirements for High Productivity Motor Vehicles, and minor and technical amendments. The second phase considers further proposals to simplify permit requirements for rental service vehicles, to update load pilot lighting and signage requirements, and to simplify	You agreed to final policy decisions on 10 May [OC260152 refers]. On 8 May, MOG agreed to accelerate permitting and licensing changes as part of Phase 1 of the Fuel Response Plan 2026. Following your decision on 25 May to take a paper to LEG [OC260401 refers], we expect the Fuel Response Amendment Rules and Regulations to be signed on 22 June and come into force on 6 August 2026. The remaining rule changes from these workstreams will be made in August 2026 alongside those in the	22 July 2026	Complete	Complete	Fuel response changes: June 2026 All other changes: August 2026

Project	Responsible Minister	Description	Status	Next briefing	Public consultation	Policy decisions (decision maker)	Rule change
		driver licensing for zero emissions heavy vehicles.	Improved use of lane rules and traffic control devices workstream.				
Heavy vehicle productivity Phase 3	Bishop	The third phase considers changes to weight, dimension and other requirements able to be progressed prior to the NZTA-commissioned research being completed in late 2026. For example, modest changes to dimension requirements for general and permit-based access or overdimension requirements could be progressed. This phase was introduced in response to industry feedback.	The Ministry has begun analysis of current requirements against other jurisdictions to inform the development of options for changes in July 2026. The Ministry will provide an update on this work and initial findings in August 2026.	August 2026	October 2026	March 2027 (Cabinet)	April 2027
Heavy vehicle productivity Phase 4 (previously VDAM review)	Bishop	The fourth phase considers more significant changes to weight and dimension requirements reliant on NZTA-commissioned research due for late 2026 completion.	The Ministry has begun analysis of current requirements against other jurisdictions to inform the development of options for changes in late 2026. The Ministry will provide an update on this work in August 2026.	August 2026	April 2027	June 2027 (Cabinet)	To be confirmed
Digital driver licences and service modernisation	Bishop	This work enables digital driver licences and other service modernisation, including online theory tests, digital alternatives to physical labels, simplified customer requirements, and enhanced electronic service of regulatory notices and fees.	Policy direction for Land Transport Rule amendments has been agreed. We will provide you with a briefing in late June 2026 to approve material for public consultation.	24 June 2026	June 2026	Complete	October 2026
Overhaul of the vehicle regulatory system	Bishop	This workstream aims to make the vehicle regulatory system more efficient and adaptable, initially focused on simplifying vehicle entry requirements and aligning with international standards. Longer-term work will consider broader system changes, including how vehicles are categorised and where requirements are set.	Initial analysis identified that the key actions to streamline vehicle entry for vehicles subject to overseas type approvals are largely operational rather than regulatory. NZTA is investigating options, including accessing overseas type approval databases to streamline compliance processes for importers. The remaining regulatory components of this workstream, including any targeted rule changes for vehicle entry and the broader review of the vehicle regulatory framework, are being scoped for potential inclusion in the next tranche of the Rules Reform Programme. We will advise on next steps when possible.	Scoping is underway for inclusion in the next tranche of Land Transport Rules Reform.			
Land Transport Rules Reform Programme 2.0	Bishop	The next tranche of the Land Transport Rules Reform Programme, building on the current programme's approach of targeted secondary legislation changes.	We are assessing a long list of potential proposals for inclusion in the next tranche of the Rules Reform Programme. These initial assessments are expected to be completed in July, after which a prioritisation exercise will be undertaken.	We will advise you after the prioritisation exercise has been completed.			