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Ministry of Transport
By email: gps@transport.govt.nz

RURAL WOMEN NEW ZEALAND (INC) SUBMISSION

Draft Government Policy Statement on Land Transport 2024

Rural Women New Zealand (RWNZ) welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the Ministry of Transport (MoT) on the Draft Government Policy Statement (GPS) on land transport 2024.

As an organisation dedicated to strengthening, supporting and connecting people and communities in rural and regional New Zealand, we want to ensure that rural and regional New Zealand is given sufficient consideration in land transport planning.

While RWNZ agrees with the strategic priorities set out in the GPS, we would remind Government that rural New Zealanders and primary sector are significant contributors to economic growth and productivity. The importance of, and improvements required for, the wider roading network should not be lost in the focus on the Roads of National Significance (RONS) programme.

We are pleased to see the GPS acknowledges the importance of local and rural roads in connecting our communities and businesses to key routes, and the importance of ensuring the whole network is maintained to a reliable standard.

Our specific interest is to ensure that:

- The maintenance of rural roads and bridges (state highways and local roads) is adequately funded to ensure they are fit-for-purpose;
- Necessary improvements are pursued to the rural roading network (state highways and local roads) to ensure it continues to meet the needs of rural communities and farm businesses; and

- Sufficient priority is given to the rural roading network (state highways and local roads) under local road maintenance and local road improvement activity classes.

We would likewise further highlight the need for ensuring resilience of the roading network. Rural roads and bridges (on state highways and local roads) are in most instances critical lifelines connecting rural communities with each other and with the rest of Aotearoa New Zealand.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.

About Rural Women New Zealand

Rural Women New Zealand (RWNZ) is a not-for-profit, member-based organisation that reaches into all rural communities to provide a credible and respected voice on rural environment, health, education, technology, business and social issues.

RWNZ strives to ensure that all rural residents, workers and families have equitable access to services, inequalities are addressed by Government, and the wellbeing of rural communities is considered from the beginning of all policy and legislative development.

RWNZ is affiliated to the Associated Country Women of the World and as such upholds all United Nations, International Labor Organisation (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and World Health Organisation (WHO) conventions and outcome statements as they relate to women and rural women in particular.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Gabrielle O'Brien
Chief Executive