

8 July 2025

Bike Waikato Committee
info@bikewaikato.org.nz

Ref. NZT-10707

To the Bike Waikato Committee,

Thank you for your letter of 23 June 2025 to the NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) Chief Executive, Brett Gliddon, regarding the potential for heavy vehicle safety features to reduce cyclist deaths and serious injuries. Your correspondence has been forwarded to me for response as the matters raised fall within my responsibilities as Director of Land Transport.

I appreciate you raising this matter with NZTA, and I share your concern about the loss of life and injuries suffered by community members and their loved ones.

As the regulator, NZTA's role is to operationalise the current legislation and does not have the authority to create new rules or regulations. That authority sits with the Minister of Transport through the Ministry of Transport (MoT). We encourage you to contact them directly by email to oia@transport.govt.nz if you wish to propose a rule change.

You may be aware that the Minister of Transport has recently announced his intention for public consultation later this year on mandating additional safety requirements for vehicle imports. The Government's Road Safety Objectives outlines some of the safety requirements likely to be considered through that consultation, and I note these include Electronic Stability Control (ESC) for heavy vehicles including buses. I encourage you to make a submission when the consultation opens.

NZTA has promoted a range of crash reduction measures to address safety around heavy vehicles. Some of these initiatives include the introduction of conspicuity (reflective) requirements for all High Productivity Motor Vehicles (vehicles which exceed the standard 44,000 kg weight and/or length limits but must meet higher axle group limits and remain within standard width and height), as well as the implementation of trailer stability control systems.

Many new trucks now entering New Zealand are equipped with advanced safety technologies, such as blind spot mirrors and sensors. These technologies alert drivers to the presence of vulnerable road users like cyclists nearby. NZTA will continue to engage with the heavy vehicle industry about the availability and efficacy of these safety systems. Along with MoT, NZTA will continue to monitor the uptake and effectiveness of these systems to assess whether future regulatory requirements may be warranted.

If you would like to discuss this matter further with NZTA please contact Ministerial Services by email to official.correspondence@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brent Alderton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brent Alderton

Director of Land Transport