

# Hon Michael Wood



Minister of Transport  
Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety

21 February 2022

Sir Brian Roche  
Chair  
**Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency Board**  
**[c/o boardsecretariat@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:boardsecretariat@nzta.govt.nz)**

Dear Sir Brian

## **Operational policy for planning, procurement and delivery of public transport services**

I write to you in relation to the review of the Public Transport Operating Model (PTOM), and my intended reforms to the planning, procurement, and delivery of public transport services. I intend to replace PTOM with the Sustainable Public Transport Framework (SPTF).

The SPTF is being developed to achieve four objectives:

- public transport services support mode shift from private motor vehicles, by being integrated, reliable, frequent, accessible, affordable, and safe
- employment and engagement of the public transport workforce is fair and equitable, providing for a sustainable labour market and sustainable provision of public transport services
- well used public transport services reduce the environmental and health impact of land transport, including by reducing reliance on single occupancy vehicles and by using zero emission technology
- provision of services supports value-for-money and efficiency from public transport investment while achieving the first three objectives.

My intention is to embed these objectives through amendments to the Land Transport Management Act 2003. Alongside these objectives, I intend to progress more specific changes to:

- better enable decarbonisation of the public transport bus fleet by providing for different ownership and service delivery models
- improve public transport labour market outcomes
- address issues with roles and relationships between different players in the public transport system
- improve the frameworks for exempt and on-demand public transport services.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency (Waka Kotahi) will have a key role in both working alongside Te Manatū Waka officials to develop operational policy to achieve the SPTF objectives and to support the more specific changes, once agreed.

To this end Te Manatū Waka officials are establishing a Working Group focused on developing operational policy that will support implementation of the SPTF. I understand Te Manatū Waka officials are already working closely with Waka Kotahi officials to establish this working group.

As signalled by the second objective, one of the key elements of the SPTF will be focussed on supporting a sustainable labour market. My intention is to establish specific labour market interventions to support this objective. The interventions will achieve the following outcomes:

- bus drivers have the opportunity to maintain employment if there is a change of operator
- the substantive terms and conditions of bus drivers are not negatively impacted by a change of operator
- the terms and conditions of the bus driver workforce are improved to increase recruitment and retention.

I would like to invite Waka Kotahi to develop operational policy to achieve these labour market outcomes. I anticipate the existing Bus Driver Terms and Conditions Steering Group, which has a mandate closely aligned with these outcomes, could be tasked with helping shape this operational policy.

I expect Waka Kotahi to report every two months on progress with developing operational policy to support the SPTF.

Yours sincerely



Hon Michael Wood  
**Minister of Transport**