



The Aotearoa New Zealand transport landscape 2025

Prof Simon Kingham

Ahorangi, | Professor

Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha | University of Canterbury

Ōtautahi | Christchurch

What three words describe current
government transport priorities

www.menti.com

3962 3333

Roads

Potholes

Roads

Roads

Roads

Speed

Roads

Roads

Roads

Roads

Roads

Roads

Efficiency

Roads

Roads

Roads

How we decide our transport priorities

Predict and Provide

- Model behaviour based on the past
- Provide more of the same to accommodate growth
 - But make it bigger, stronger, faster and more ‘resilient’?

Decide and Provide

- Decide the desirable outcome
- Provide the necessary infrastructure to deliver the best outcomes
 - But what are the outcomes?

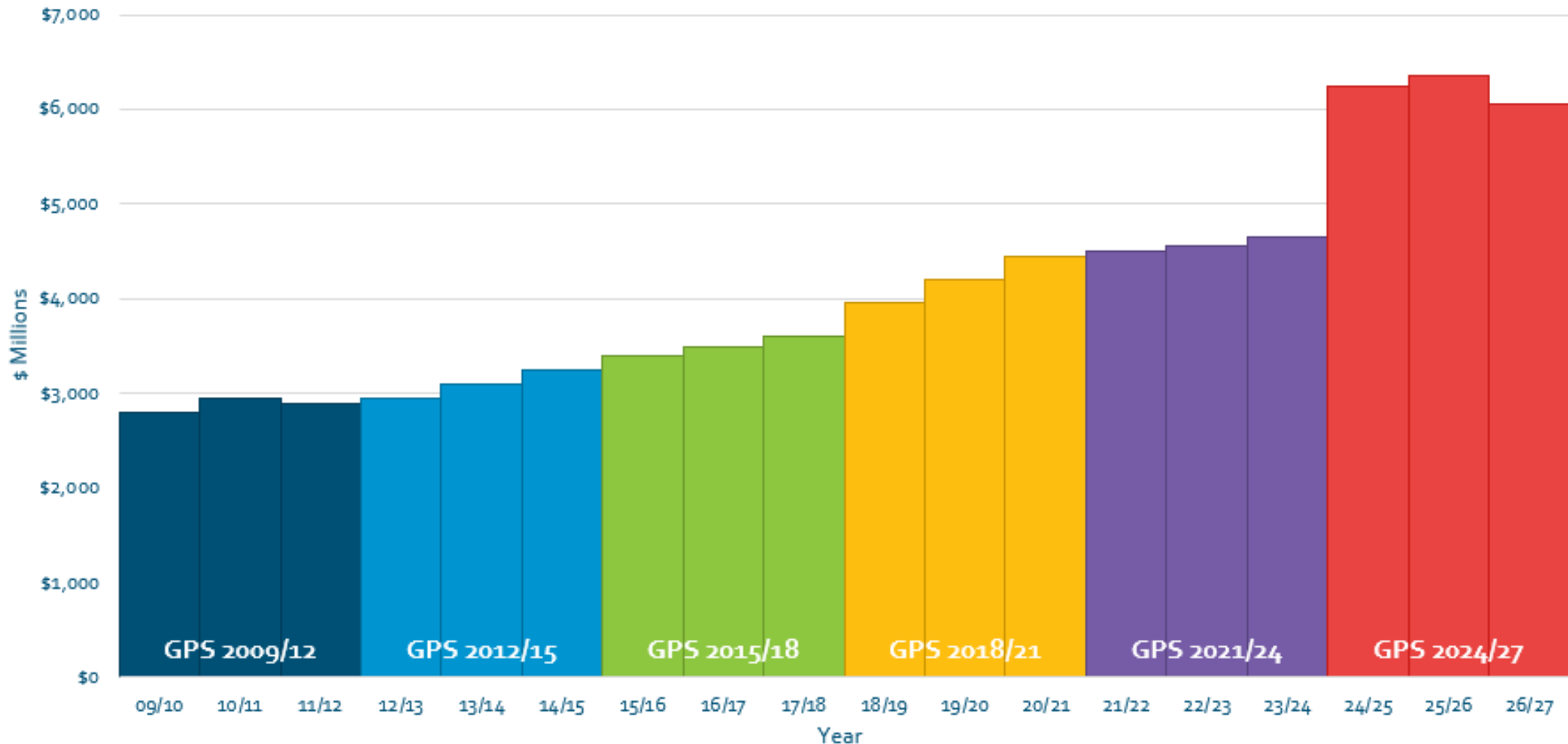


How much do we spend

Transport spending

National Land Transport Programme Expenditure Targets

Source: Government Policy Statements

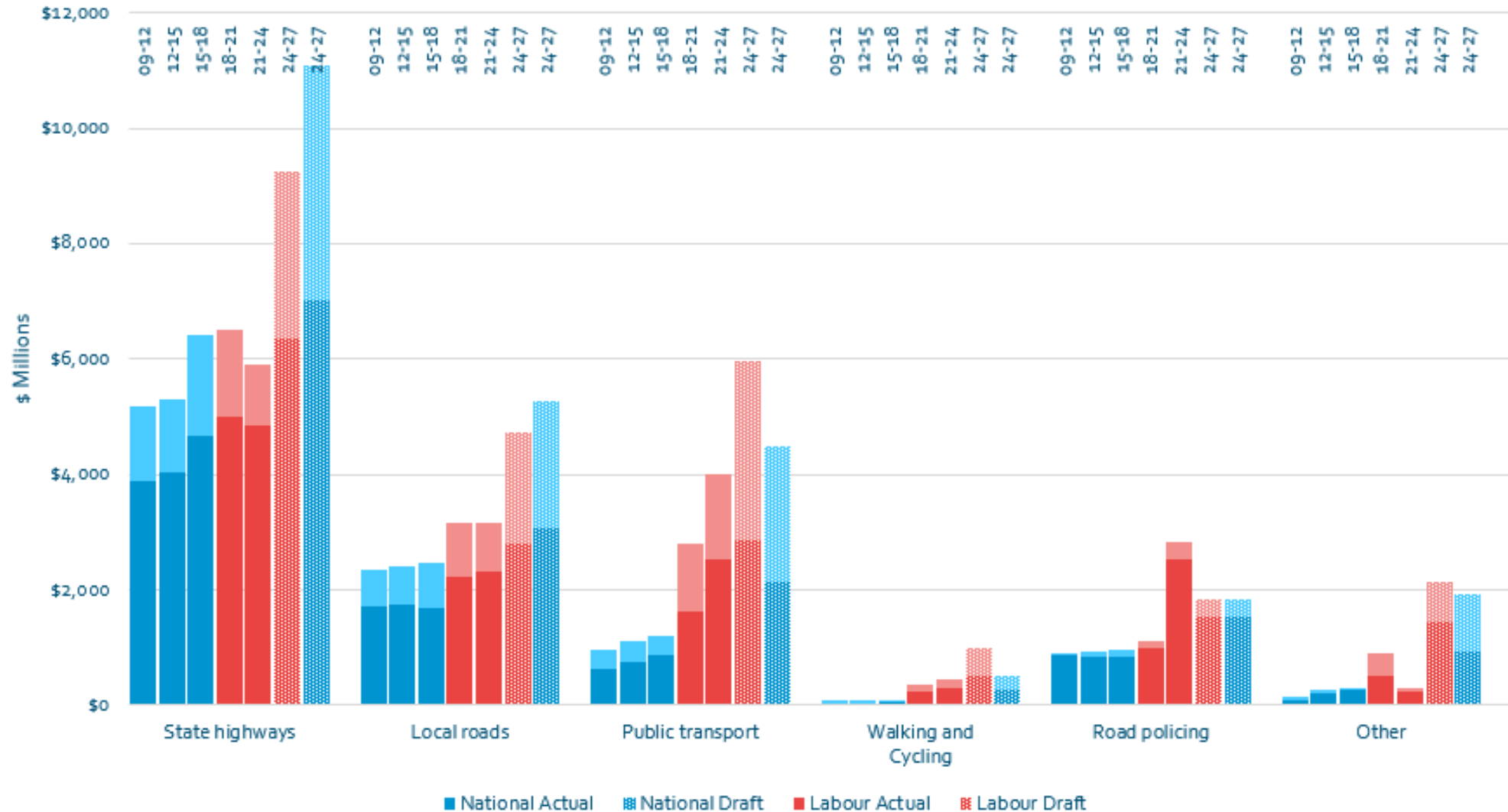


<https://www.greaterauckland.org.nz/2024/03/05/the-governments-ideological-transport-policy/>

Government funding

GPS Funding Ranges 2009/12 to draft 2024-27

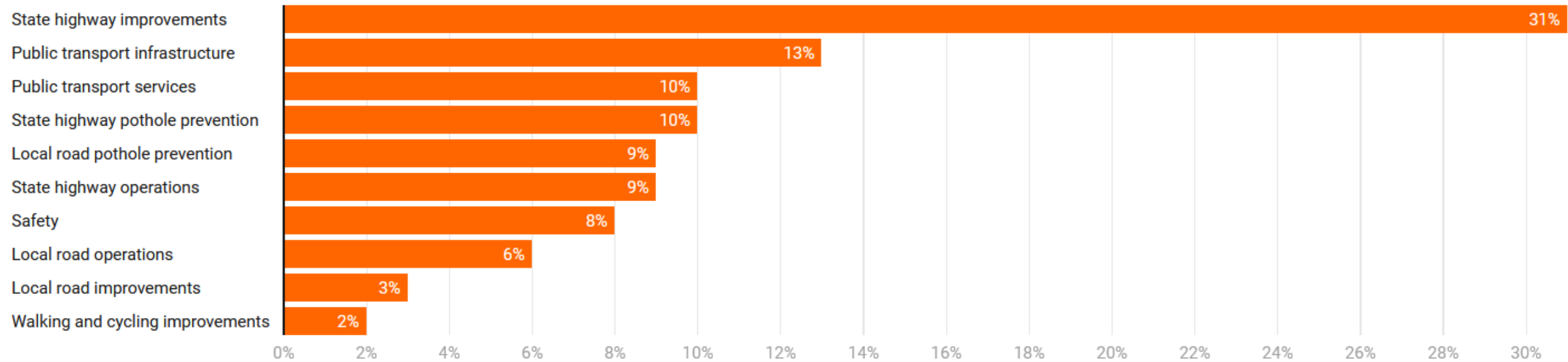
Source: Ministry of Transport



<https://www.greeterauckland.org.nz/2024/03/05/the-governments-ideological-transport-policy/>

Spending 2024

% of functional* National Land Transport Programme 2024-27



* We have included the major categories infrastructure spending categories of the National Land Transport Programme, but have excluded non-functional categories including debt funding, external funding, investment management.

Chart: Matthew Allman/Infometrics • Source: NZTA/Infometrics • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

<https://www.infometrics.co.nz/article/2024-09-a-tricky-investment-landscape>

NLTP revenue & investment flows 2024-2027

Revenue source	Total (billions)	% of total
Road users (FED, RUC and rego)	\$32.93	
Crown funding & financing		
Local government share (predominantly rates)		
Other (e.g. tolling, property, TUC)		
Total 2024-27		

Funding will come from...

Opening balance	\$340 million
Road user charges (net)	\$6.7 billion
Fuel excise duty (net)	\$5.7 billion
Motor vehicle registry fees (net)	\$1.3 billion
Track user charges	\$60 million
Crown loan	\$3.1 billion
Crown capital grant	\$3.1 billion
Crown grant (contingency)	\$1 billion
Rail network (Crown funding)	\$1 billion
Other Income (tolling, property etc.)	\$200 million
North Island weather event (Crown funding)	\$910 million
Housing Infrastructure Fund	\$150 million
Sub total	\$23.6 billion
Local government share of NLTP activities	\$5.8 billion
Major Crown Investment Projects	\$3 billion
Climate Emergency Response Fund	\$200 million
National Resilience Programme	\$230 million
Other Crown funding	\$140 million
Total funds	\$32.9 billion

and will be invested in

Pothole prevention (state highways and local roads)	\$5.5 billion
Maintenance and operations (state highways and local roads)	\$4.6 billion
State highway improvements	\$7 billion
Local roading improvements	\$1.3 billion
Public transport infrastructure and services	\$6.4 billion
Road policing and safety	\$1.7 billion
North Island weather events recovery, including rail	\$1 billion
Improving resilience and climate emergency response	\$390 million
Contingency for capital Improvements	\$1 billion
Footpath and cycleway improvement and maintenance	\$460 million
PPP and debt repayments	\$1.9 billion
Rail network	\$1 billion
Other transport investment (Includes asset management planning and funding for regulatory activities)	\$700 million
Total expenditure	\$32.9 billion

<https://www.greaterauckland.org.nz/2024/09/03/nltp-2024-released-destroying-pipeline-of-shovel-ready-local-projects/>

<https://www.nzta.govt.nz/assets/planning-and-investment/nltp/2024/docs/2024-27-national-land-transport-programme.pdf>

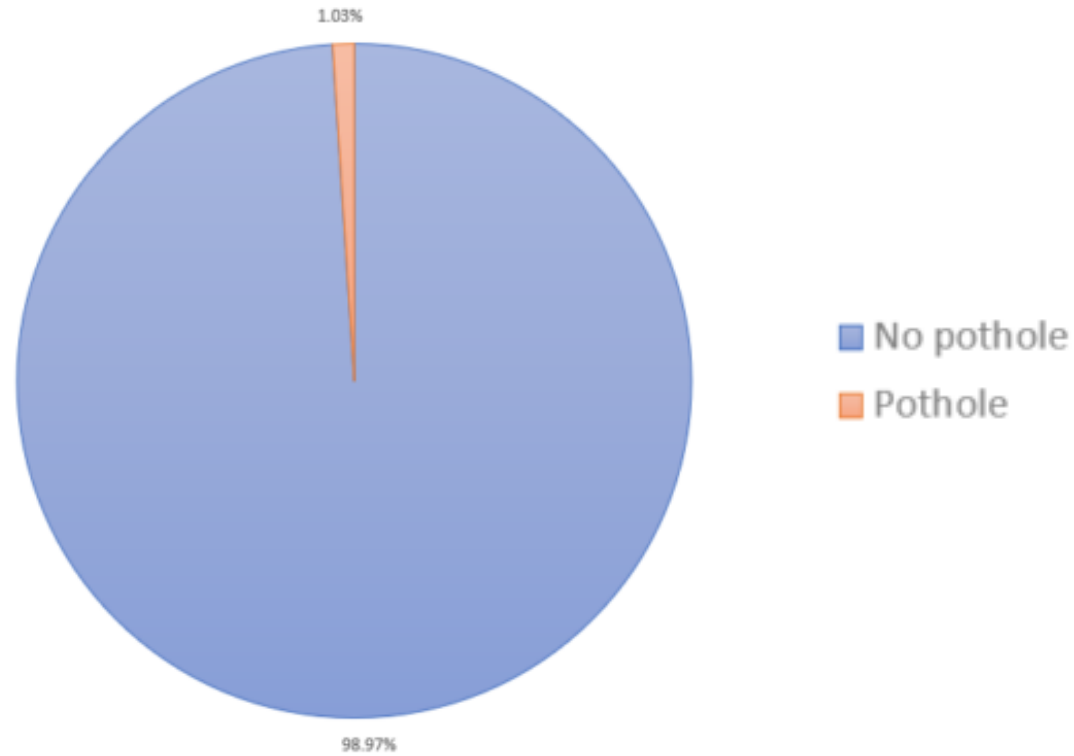
Govt priorities

- *Its about improving the efficiency of the network*
- **TVNZ - Real cost of Govt back-peddalling on cycleway investments**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RAZrIWCo1zw>

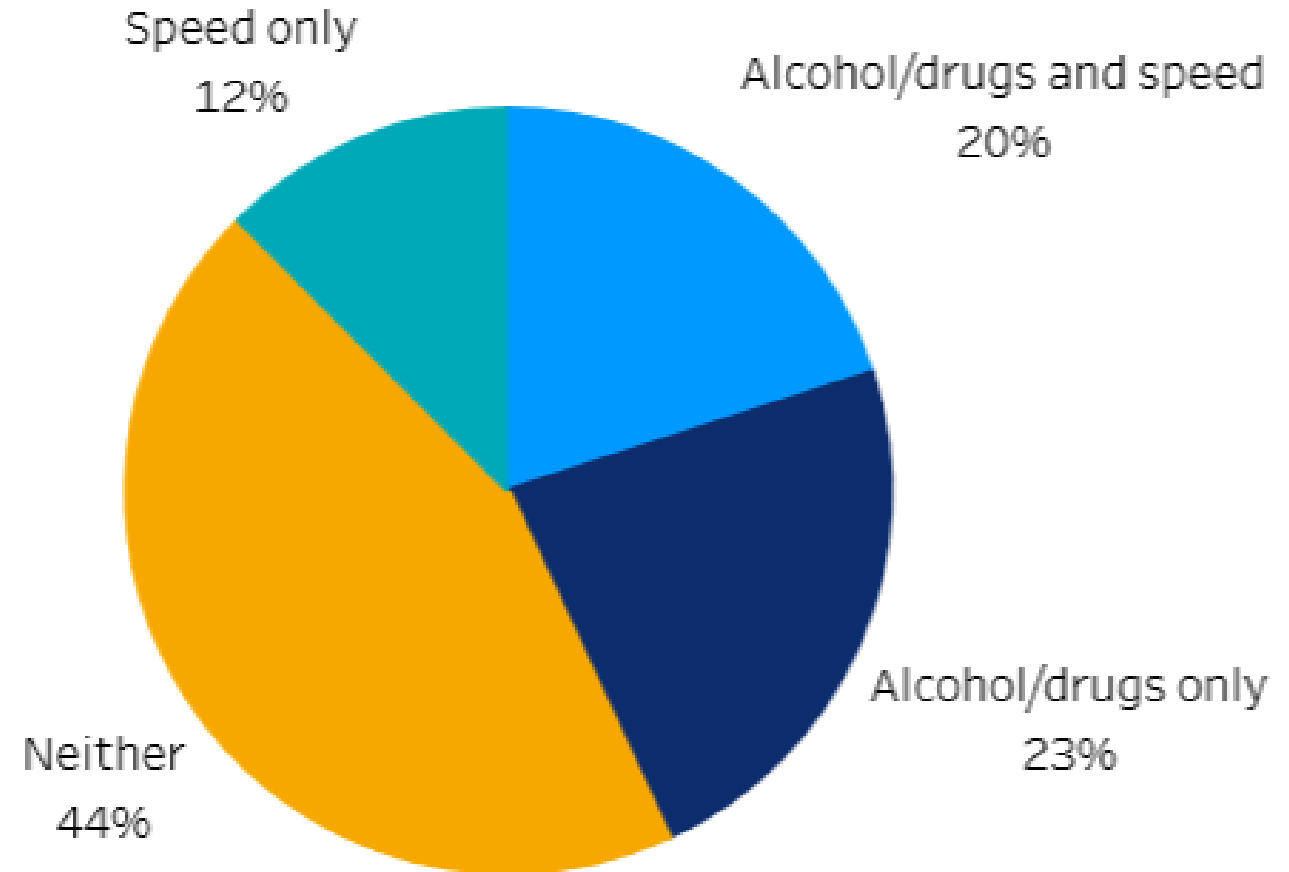
Potholes

Speed

Pothole Related Death and Serious Injury Crashes (New Zealand 2018-2022)



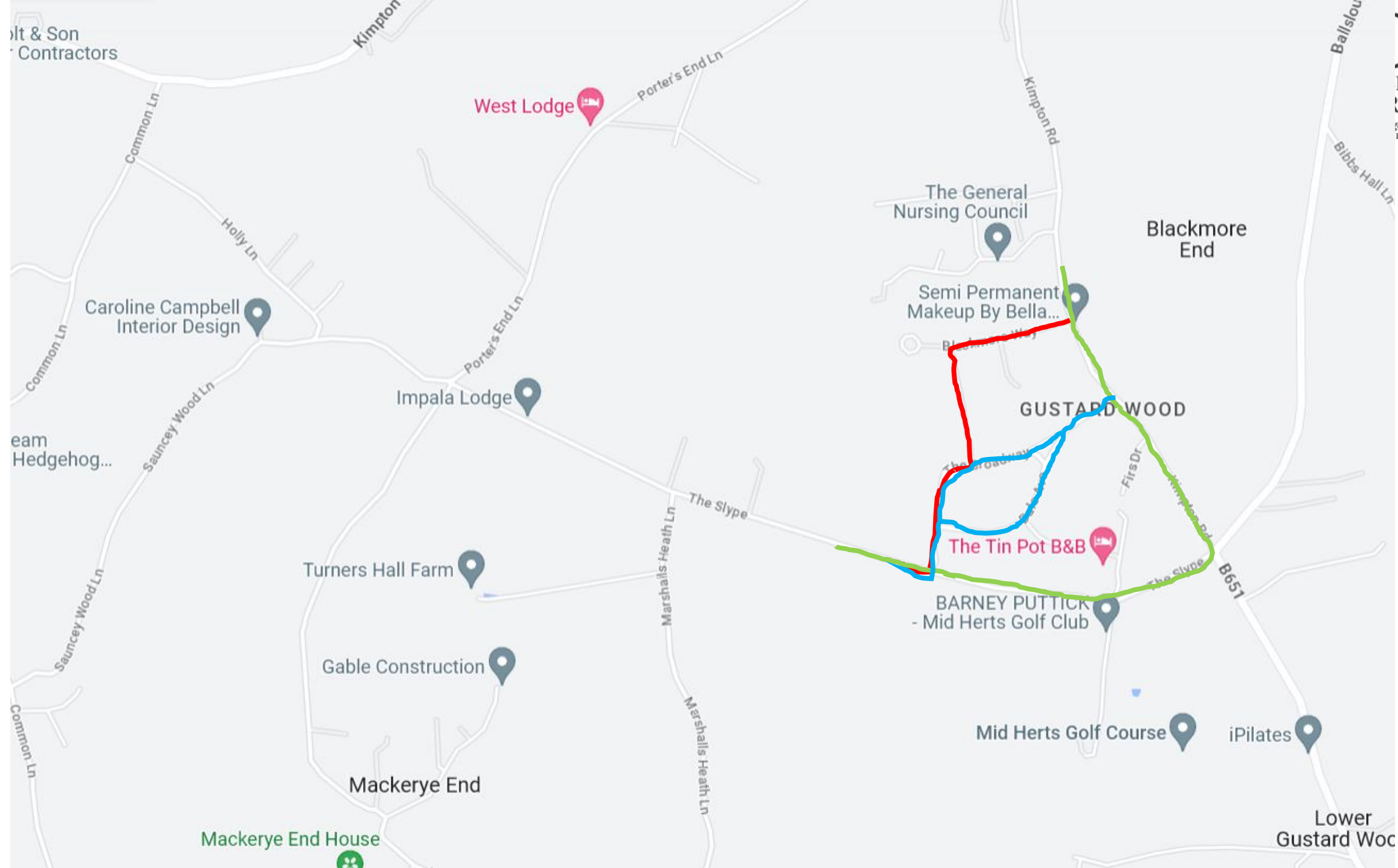
<https://abley.com/abley-insights/are-potholes-really-the-problem/>

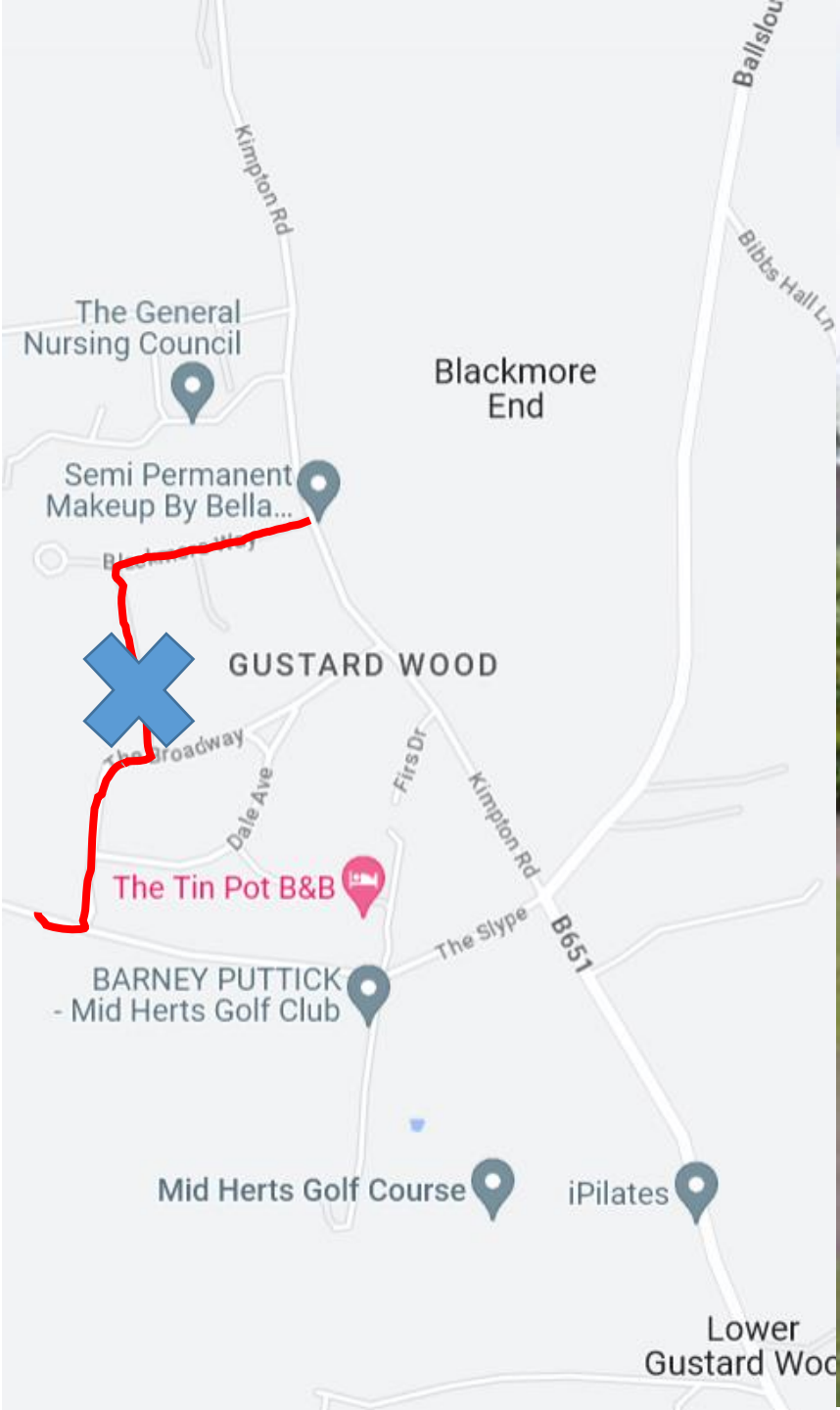


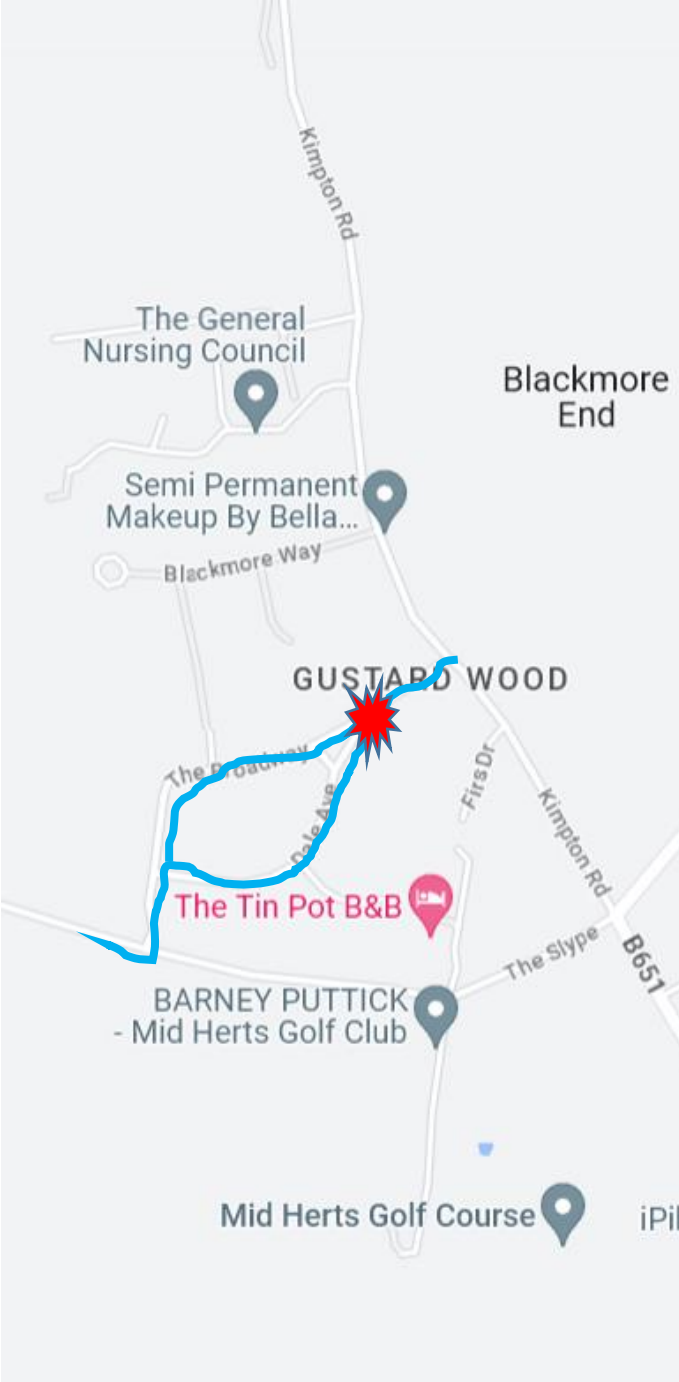
<https://www.transport.govt.nz/statistics-and-insights/safety-annual-statistics/sheet/speed>

The value of potholes?

Fast and direct may not deliver
all outcomes







Gustard woc

Roads

RoNS and RoRS

Roads of National Significance



Roads of Regional Significance



Auckland

- O Mahurangi – Penlink
- Waihoehoe Road Upgrade
- SH1 Papakura To Drury

Waikato

- SH1/SH29 Intersection Upgrade

Greater Wellington

- SH58 Safety Improvements Stage 2
- SH2 Melling Transport Improvements

Queenstown

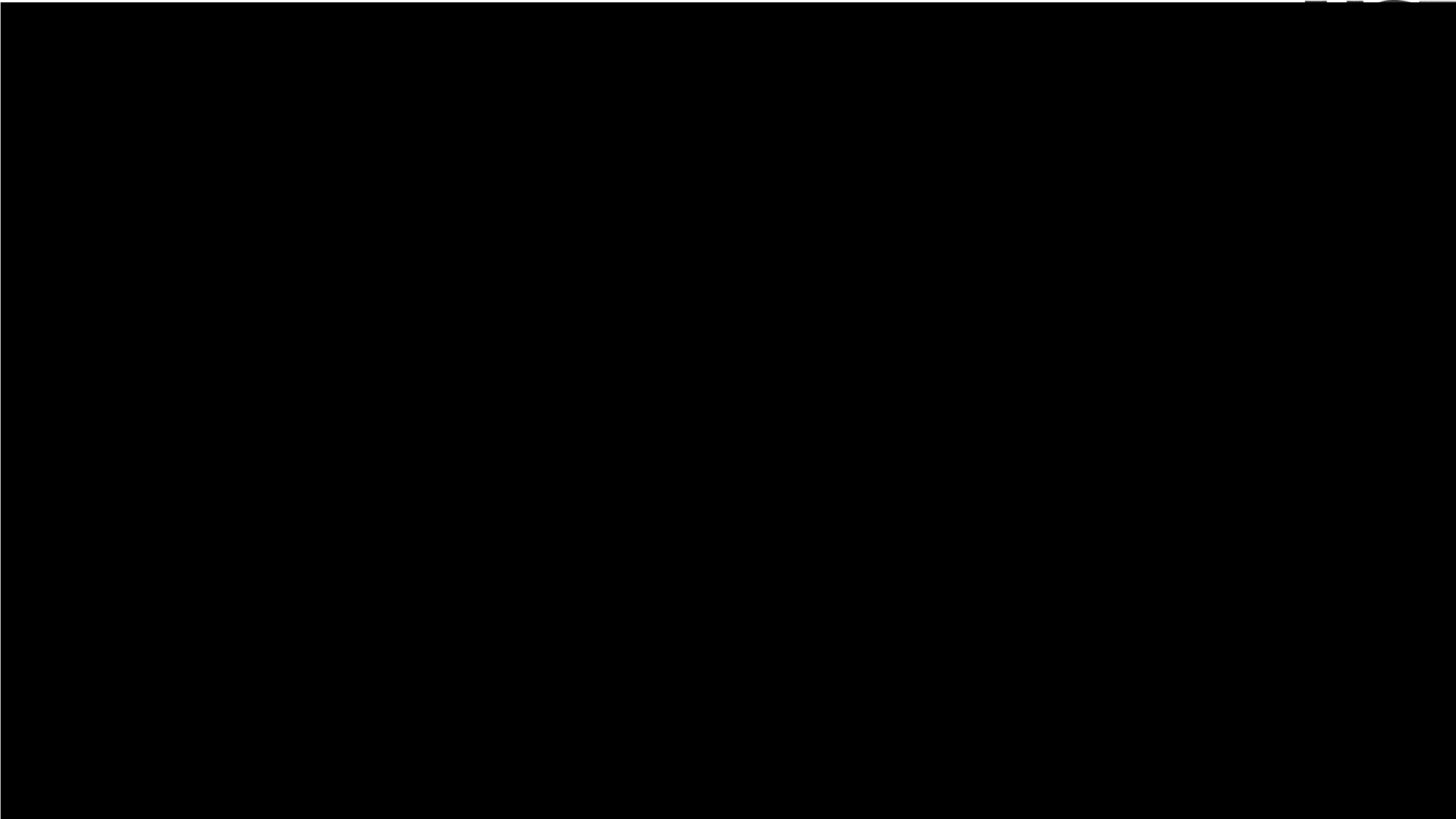
- Queenstown Package

Canterbury

- Rural Intersections – Tinwald Corridor
- SH1 Rolleston Transport Improvements
- SH75 Halswell Road Improvements



What does buildings new roads
do?



Speed

Speed limit increases

Speed limits 'unsafe' on nearly all NZ roads, says NZ Transport Agency's Mega Maps planning guide



By Lucy Bennett & Chris Knox

NZ Herald · 5 Jun, 2019 02:00 PM ⌚ 10 mins to read

<https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/speed-limits-unsafe-on-nearly-all-nz-roads-says-nz-transport-agencys-mega-maps-planning-guide/NZ2W3QYQ64FNZIWMKAS5OPRUKM/speed>

Move to cut speed limits aimed at keeping tamariki safer near schools, Transport Minister says

7:28 am on 24 April 2021

Felix Desmarais, Local Democracy reporter

 [felix_desmarais](#)  felix.desmarais@nzme.co.nz

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/441136/move-to-cut-speed-limits-aimed-at-keeping-tamariki-safer-near-schools-transport-minister-says>

Transport Minister Simeon Brown announces blanket speed limits dropped



By **Ben Leahy**

Reporter · NZ Herald · 28 Sep, 2024 10:54 AM ⌚ 5 mins to read

<https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/transport-minister-simeon-brown-announces-blanket-speed-limits-dropped/CG5J6W3PTVGYXEFNTIA3XHGXRQ/>



'Risky, expensive and confusing' – councils challenge government's proposed speed limit changes



<https://www.1news.co.nz/2024/09/07/risky-expensive-and-confusing-councils-challenge-governments-proposed-speed-limit-changes/>

TRANSPORT

Truckies say higher speed limits won't boost freight efficiency

Transporting NZ says enabling cars to overtake slower trucks will help; minister Simeon Brown squashes idea for consistent speed limits as 'quite simplistic'

<https://newsroom.co.nz/2024/09/27/truckies-say-higher-speed-limits-wont-boost-freight-efficiency/>



Moving back speed limits, new school signage may cost \$25m - AT

12:36 pm on 29 October 2024

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/532196/moving-back-speed-limits-new-school-signage-may-cost-25m-at>

Group on collision course with government over 'appalling' move to higher speeds

9:47 am on 30 January 2025

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/540320/group-on-collision-course-with-government-over-appalling-move-to-higher-speeds>

Government backpedals on some automatic speed reversals, says consultation now possible

6:23 am on 8 February 2025

Keiller MacDuff, Senior reporter

✉ keiller.macduff@rnz.co.nz

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/political/541258/government-backpedals-on-some-automatic-speed-reversals-says-consultation-now-possible>

Cycling

- *We've had a government that's tried to slow people down, take lanes away for cycleways, and that's clogging up our cities"*
- *In Auckland ... the vast majority of people get around in their cars, their time is important"*
- *"Look I'm sure it would be better for me but ultimately at the same time I've got to get to places quickly and efficiently."*
- *"I choose to drive a car and get where I need to go quickly because my time is important."*
- In reference to health benefits *"go to a gym"*
- *"There is a place for cycleways" - [But no new money]*

Slower might not be bad

SLOW CITIES

Conquering our Speed Addiction
for Health and Sustainability



Paul Tranter
Rodney Tolley

shows how a move to slow down will - perhaps surprisingly - increase accessibility to the city services and activities that support healthy, sustainable lives and cities.

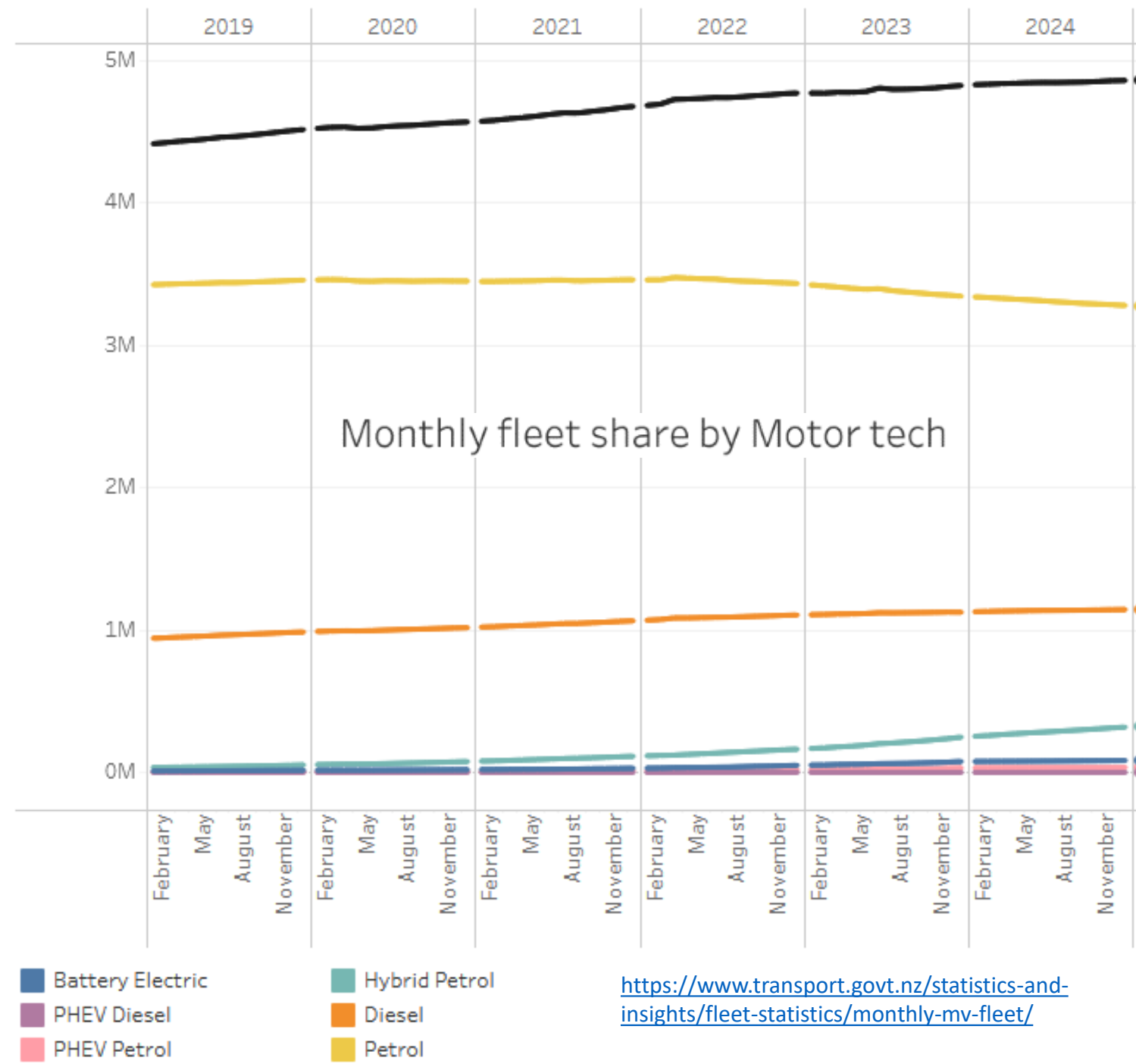
Climate change

Ensures environmental sustainability

The New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) is the Government's key tool to reduce emissions. All emissions from the transport sector must be offset through the purchase of emissions units in the ETS.

https://consult.transport.govt.nz/policy/setting-of-speed-limits-2024-consultation/user_uploads/setting-of-speed-limits-2024---consultation-document.pdf

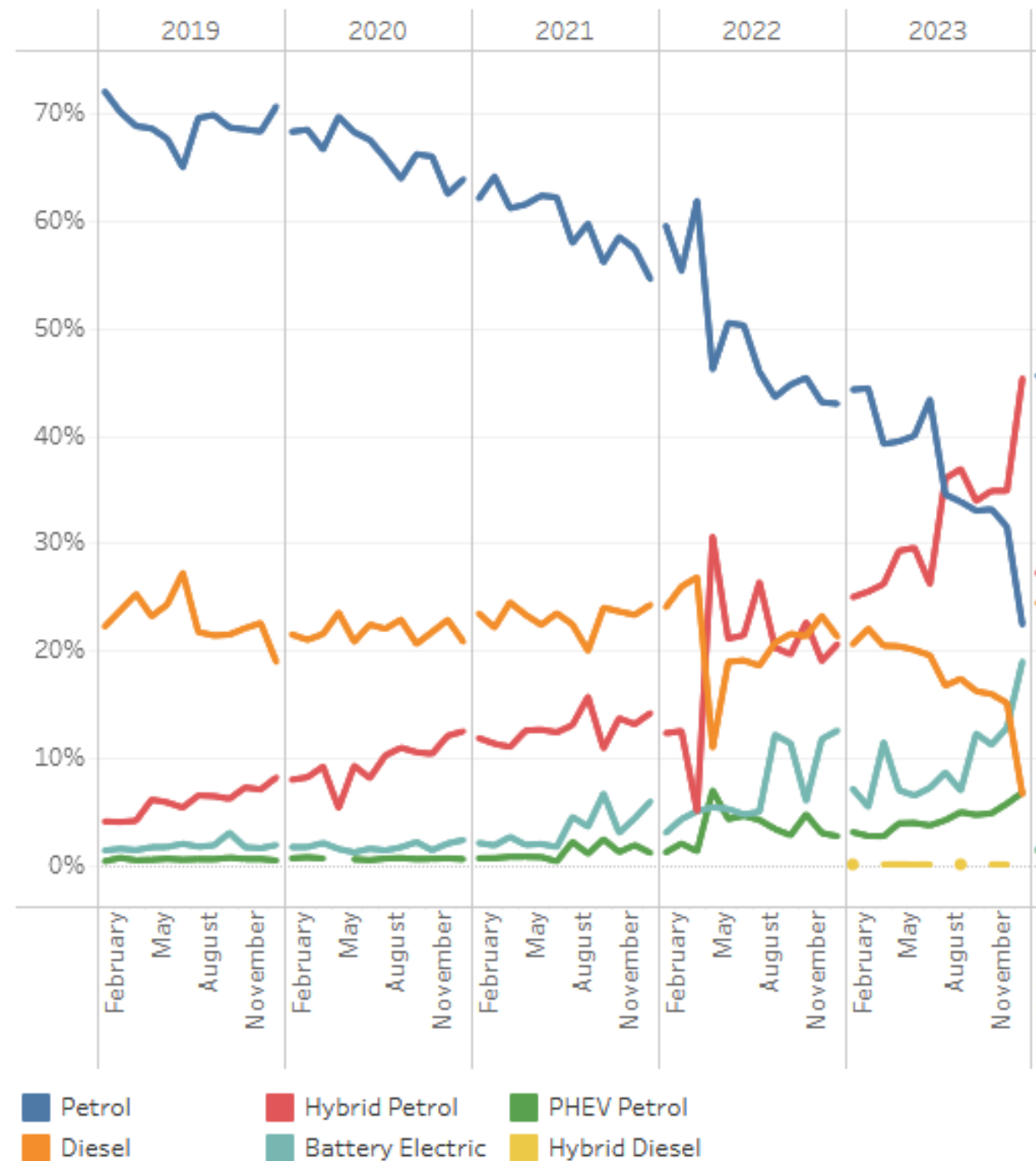
Total fleet



<https://www.transport.govt.nz/statistics-and-insights/fleet-statistics/monthly-mv-fleet/>

Electric/Hybrid - new registrations

Monthly market share of initial registrations
By Motor tech.



<https://www.transport.govt.nz/statistics-and-insights/fleet-statistics/light-motor-vehicle-registrations/>

EVs etc

End of Clean Car discount, road user charges see EV sales decline

11:40 am on 20 December 2024



Susan Edmunds, Money Correspondent

✉ susan.edmunds@rnz.co.nz

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/business/537245/end-of-clean-car-discount-road-user-charges-see-ev-sales-decline>

Climate change

CLIMATE CHANGE

Government quietly defunds transport climate work

Simeon Brown won't say whether the Government will completely scrap the targets for reducing private car usage



by **Marc Daalder**

17/12/2023

<https://newsroom.co.nz/2023/12/17/government-quietly-defunds-transport-climate-work/>

EVs etc



<https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/election-2023-live-nationals-christopher-luxon-announces-new-electric-vehicle-policy-labour-reveals-economic-plan/VTKTRYBXMFGNFD654LCVEYJE5A/>

National is promising to build 10,000 electric vehicle chargers - 10 times more than currently exist, [Christopher Luxon](#) has revealed.

Luxon is campaigning in [Christchurch](#) and his time in the Garden City has included a stop at Rollickin Gelato where he was challenged by staff to scoop as many ice creams as he could in one minute.

Luxon said National would invest \$257 million over four years to build the chargers, and revive the "highly successful" ultra-fast broadband (UFB) funding model to deliver the chargers.

National's quiet U-turn on \$247m EV charger pledge



Olivia Wannan

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/nz-news/360517582/nationals-quiet-u-turn-247m-ev-charger-pledge>

Cycling is ten times more important than electric cars for reaching net-zero cities

March 30, 2021 1:59am AEDT





Global Environmental Change

Volume 67, March 2021, 102224



The climate change mitigation impacts of active travel: Evidence from a longitudinal panel study in seven European cities

Christian Brand ^a  , Thomas Götschi ^b, Evi Dons ^{c, d}, Regine Gerike ^e, Esther Anaya-Boig ^f, Ione Avila-Palencia ^{g, h}, Audrey de Nazelle ^f, Mireia Gascon ^{g, i, j}, Mailin Gaupp-Berghausen ^k, Francesco Iacorossi ^l, Sonja Kahlmeier ^{m, n}, Luc Int Panis ^{c, d, s}, Francesca Racioppi ^o, David Rojas-Rueda ^{g, q}, Arnout Standaert ^c, Erik Stigell ^r, Simona Sulikova ^a, Sandra Wegener ^p, Mark J. Nieuwenhuijsen ^{g, i, j}

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2021.102224>

<https://theconversation.com/cycling-is-ten-times-more-important-than-electric-cars-for-reaching-net-zero-cities-157163>

A funny story

Technical Director,
Toyota Indonesia



[guardian.com/environment/2024/01/15/billboard-ads-take-aim-at-over-going-green-claims](https://www.guardian.com/environment/2024/01/15/billboard-ads-take-aim-at-over-going-green-claims)

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-bristol-64264251>



NZ road lobby's tobacco industry-like tactics revealed in study

11:02 pm on 23 February 2025



Maia Ingoe, Journalist
✉ maia.ingoe@rnz.co.nz

Highlights

- The transport sector should be considered a commercial determinant of health.
- Road lobby groups in New Zealand advocate for policy that sustains car-dependence.
- Framing strategies used by the road lobby share similarities with other unhealthy industries.
- Transport policymakers must be alert to influence of commercial vested interests.



ELSEVIER

Journal of Transport & Health

Volume 41, March 2025, 101999

The road lobby and unhealthy transport policy discourse in Aotearoa New Zealand: A framing analysis

Alice Miller ^a ✉, Emma Osborne ^a, Richard Edwards ^a, Alex Macmillan ^b, Caroline Shaw ^a

Thanks

Simon Kingham

Ahorangi | Professor

Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha | University of Canterbury

simon.kingham@canterbury.ac.nz