

# **Waka Kotahi's Requirements for Urban Buses in New Zealand**

**6 November 2020**

For more information please contact:  
Jane Murray  
NMDHB Public Health Service  
Email: [jane.murray@nmdhb.govt.nz](mailto:jane.murray@nmdhb.govt.nz)  
Phone: (03) 543 7805

## Submitter details

1. Nelson Marlborough Health (Nelson Marlborough District Health Board) (NMH) is a key organisation involved in the health and wellbeing of the people within Te Tau Ihu. NMH appreciates the opportunity to comment from a public health perspective on the Waka Kotahi's Requirements for Urban Buses in New Zealand.
2. NMH makes this submission in recognition of its responsibilities to improve, promote and protect the health of people and communities under the New Zealand Public Health and Disability Act 2000 and the Health Act 1956.
3. This submission sets out particular matters of interest and concern to NMH.

## Comments

4. NMH is supportive of the requirements for urban buses in New Zealand.
5. NMH notes that these requirements require bike racks as being optional (at the discretion of Councils). NMH does not believe that this aligns with the Strategic Priorities of the Government Position Statement on Transport where "Better Travel Choice" which "*requires all parts of the transport system, be it roads, rail, public transport, and walking and cycling routes, to work together*"<sup>1</sup>. NMH recommends that bicycle racks are a requirement for all new urban buses.
6. NMH was pleased to see that there is a requirement for buses to have electronic information displays and audio announcements. Progressive route information is very useful for patrons to navigate themselves especially for visitors, older people and those with visual impairments. These types of systems are used commonly overseas. It would be of added value to Waka Kotahi to actively encourage Councils to use these systems so that patron experience is improved.
7. NMH were pleased to see that future technologies such as cyclist detection systems and acoustic vehicle alerting systems on electric buses are being considered, this is especially that potential conflicts between vulnerable road users and buses are minimised.

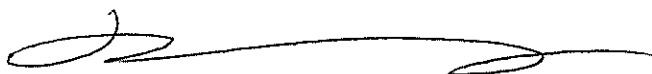
---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.transport.govt.nz/assets/Import/Uploads/Our-Work/Documents/GPS2021.pdf>

## **Conclusion**

8. NMH thanks Waka Kotahi for the opportunity to comment on the Waka Kotahi's Requirements for Urban Buses in New Zealand.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Bramley', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Peter Bramley  
**Chief Executive**  
peter.bramley@nmhs.govt.nz