Proactive Release

Will be considered to be withheld in full

MINO-575 - Possible extension for temporary Road User Charges reduction

30 January 2022

Provide advice on a proposed extension to the temporary Road User Charges (RUC) reduction.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's response:

RUC for both heavy and light vehicles will return to their regular rates as of 1 February 2023, as specified by the Road User Charges (Temporary RUC Reduction Scheme Extension) Amendment Order 2022. While Cabinet could decide that the law could be amended in the future, Waka Kotahi is required to collect the regular rate until new legislation has been passed.

Due to the timing of any Cabinet decision, there is not sufficient time to pass new legislation before the end of the temporary reduction period. Section 9(2)(g)(i)

Alternatively, a bill could be passed in February to resume the 36 percent reduction from 1 March 2023 until 30 June 2023 or 31 December 2023. Ideally, Waka Kotahi would want this announced as early as possible in order to prevent RUC vehicle owners purchasing at the full rate in February 2023 and then having to complete an overlap in March 2023 once the reduction resumes.

Waka Kotahi could add information to its website and on the purchase page to advise that the Government has made the decision to retain the discounted RUC rate through to June/December 2023 and that the reduced rates would resume from 1 March 2023.

While Waka Kotahi cannot directly advise RUC vehicle owners not to purchase RUC if they were to run out in February 2023, we expect that the majority of those people would hold off until the reduced rates came back into effect. Section 9(2)(g)(i)

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