

# FREIGHT

- One of the key investment areas for the 2018–21 NLTP is access, in particular, supporting land transport activities that promote social and economic opportunities.
- Economic growth is recognised as critical to creating thriving regions, achieved by supporting employment opportunities and creating a transport system that is safe, resilient and reliable to get goods to market and achieve optimum returns.
- Significant investment will be made throughout the country to improve freight connections to ports, airports and distribution centres, as well as extending network access that supports high productivity motor vehicles (HPMV).
- During the last three years, about half the state highway network has been opened up to HPMVs, enabling more freight to be moved on fewer trucks.
- Throughout New Zealand, investment is planned in most regions to improve HPMV routes by opening up more of the network – state highways and local roads – to carry these vehicles. More freight on less vehicles also has safety and environmental outcomes.
- In places, such as Northland, we’re working with industry, the community and our co-investment partners in local government to strengthen alternate freight routes on local roads, ensuring there are good levels of service for freight in the event of network disruption.
- Completion of the Waikato Expressway in 2020 will support the movement of freight across the upper North Island, where freight volumes are forecast to grow by 59 percent in the next 30 years. The expressway will take 35 minutes off a trip from Auckland to south of Cambridge.
- While SH1/29 will remain the preferred route for road-based freight between Tauranga and Auckland, once the Waikato Expressway project is completed, other routes suitable for HPMVs will be developed to help move freight more effectively throughout this area.
- Local road improvements in Gisborne this NLTP include packages for HPMV strengthening on SH2 Gisborne to Napier and Gisborne to Ōpōtiki routes, and 50MAX upgrades at key locations on local roads to support industry.
- In Taranaki, the region’s major transport focus is ensuring there are safe, reliable and resilient freight routes and good inter-regional connectivity. Heavy vehicles travel more than 75 million kilometres on Taranaki roads every year, supporting the oil and gas industry, forestry and dairying.
- In the Manawatū, during the next three years, work will progress on the Regional Freight Ring Road.



- On the West Coast and in Otago/Southland, bridge replacements and upgrades on the state highway network will improve each region's freight connections to enable HPMVs and 50MAX vehicles to access primary produce and get goods to market.
- Completion of the Christchurch Motorways project during this NLTP will improve freight connections in Christchurch to the Christchurch International Airport, Lyttelton Port and southwest freight hubs, while in both mid and south Canterbury investment will unlock HPMV access on local roads in the area.
- In many regions, the resilience of key freight routes is critical to support regional economies. This is being addressed in the NLTP with investment in improvements on state highways and local roads, which are susceptible to frequent closures from severe weather events, climate change and crashes. These improvements are even more critical where there are no viable alternative routes.
- Weigh Right is being rolled out across the country to reduce heavy vehicle overloading and improve productivity and safety.
- Twelve weigh stations are being set up that will cover half of New Zealand's freight kilometres travelled. These are at: Marsden (Northland); North Shore, Stanley Street and Bombay (Auckland); Tauranga Port; Paengaroa (Bay of Plenty); Taupo; Napier; Ohakea (Manawatū); Mackay's Crossing (Wellington); Glasnevin (North Canterbury) and Rakaia (mid-Canterbury).
- The weigh stations will be operational by December 2020 and will help increase productivity by reducing weigh station stops for compliant operators.
- The programme is supported by the development of a new easy to use heavy vehicle permitting system.