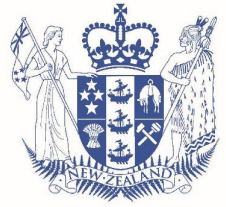


# Hon Chris Bishop

Minister of Housing  
Minister for Infrastructure  
Minister Responsible for RMA Reform  
Minister of Transport  
Leader of the House  
Associate Minister of Finance  
Associate Minister for Sport and Recreation



TCB25-1755

Justin Tighe-Umbers  
Chief Executive, NRC  
justin.tighe-umbers@natroad.co.nz

Dear Justin,

## **Heavy electric vehicles to start paying road user charges from 1 July 2027**

I am writing to let you know that the heavy electric vehicle road user charges exemption will end on 30 June 2027. Heavy electric vehicles will therefore become liable for road user charges from 1 July 2027.

You are likely aware of the previous Cabinet decision made prior to the election in 2023 that this exemption should end in 2030. Cabinet has agreed to formally rescind this previous direction. In reaching this decision, Cabinet noted the potential disruption to public transport bus services if the exemption expired as set under current legislation on 31 December 2025.

I recognise that there may be some confusion about the exemption end date, as decisions made by the previous Government were not formally actioned following the election.

The Government continues to see an important role for the uptake of heavy electric vehicles in New Zealand's heavy vehicle fleet, however it is our view that these vehicles should begin contributing transport funding in proportion to the wear and tear they cause on the road network.

The 2027 end to the exemption delivers benefits to all operators of heavy electric vehicles compared with the currently legislated end date. I strongly encourage these operators to ensure they have updated any relevant contracts they hold with clients to account for the cost of heavy electric vehicle road user charges from the end date. This is particularly the case for operators of heavy electric vehicles under contract to Public Transport Authorities.

The New Zealand Transport Agency will contact owners of heavy electric vehicles and make relevant information available on its website to provide support for these vehicles coming into the road user charges system. This information will become available throughout 2026.

I have also written to the other relevant industry groups, and Public Transport Authorities who have heavy electric vehicles operating on their networks, to advise them of this decision. I understand from officials that you provided helpful feedback on the merits of the exemption. Thank you for assisting with this process.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Bishop". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Chris" and the last name "Bishop" clearly distinguishable.

Hon Chris Bishop  
**Minister of Transport**