

**Government Response to  
Report of the Transport and Industrial Relations Committee  
on  
Petition 2014/59 of Joanne Clendon**

**Presented to the House of Representatives  
In accordance with Standing Order 252**

## **Government response to Report of the Transport and Industrial Relations Committee on Petition 2014/59 of Joanne Clendon**

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. The Government has carefully considered the Transport and Industrial Relations Committee's (the Committee) report on the Petition 2014/59 of Joanne Clendon on the issue of cycling on the footpath.
2. The Government welcomes the Committee's report, which highlights the interest from the sector and the community about tensions around the safety of children cycling in New Zealand. The Government responds to the report in accordance with Standing Order 252.
3. The Government has responded to all of the Committee's recommendations. It has directed officials to investigate the development on a rule to allow cycling on the footpath for children.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS AND GOVERNMENT RESPONSE**

#### **Background**

4. In May 2016, Joanne Clendon presented her petition to Parliament. The New Zealand Transport Agency had already commissioned a research report into the effect of, and options for, rules relating to footpath cycling, before this petition was made.
5. Current rules mean that there is a period between a child out-growing a very small wheel size and gaining the skills to ride on the road, during which most children cannot ride legally on the footpath or safely on the road. As a result, illegal footpath cycling is commonplace throughout New Zealand. It is noted that this issue is contentious, and that there are opposing views.

#### **Recommendations**

6. In its report the Committee recommended to the Government that it:
  - allow cycling on the footpath by children up to and including 12 years of age or year 8 (and accompanying adults), seniors over 65, and vulnerable users (such as those with mental or physical disabilities);
  - make bells mandatory for any bicycle used on footpaths or shared use paths;
  - allow local authorities to exclude, on a reasonable basis, certain areas of footpath from being used for cycling.

#### **Response**

7. The Government has carefully considered the Committee's report and recommendations.
8. The Government response is that the Committee's recommendations will be included in the 2017/18 Transport Rules Programme for policy investigation. Currently, cycling rules are primarily in the Land Transport (Road User) Rule 2004.

9. The policy investigation will consider the Committee's report, relevant research, and international practice. Discussions with local authorities and other stakeholders will be required on any potential changes, including the use of shared footpaths. The status quo will remain as an option under any proposed changes.
10. Policy on any proposed changes to cycling rules will be considered by Cabinet before any draft amendment rules are released for public consultation.

### **Conclusion**

11. The Government thanks the Committee for its report and its thorough consideration of the proposals. This will be a valuable record for the policy investigation stage of the transport rule-making process.
12. The House may be interested to know that:
  - Research has been commissioned and completed on footpath cycling rules and potential impacts.
  - Practices in overseas jurisdictions have also been investigated.
  - Work has begun on the investigation of a rule to allow cycling on footpaths for children.