



MI-1706

Gary Benner  
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Dear Gary

Thank you for your email of 19 July 2024 for expressing your concerns for State Highway 29 over the Kaimai Range. I understand your frustrations and share your concerns, road safety is a priority of mine, as outlined in the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport, published on 27 June 2024.

State Highway 29 is a priority route as it has a critical national freight journey function and is key to the Auckland-Hamilton-Tauranga triangle.

The Tauriko West has been announced to be a part of the Roads of National Significance (RoNS). This project will see improvements from Omanawa bridge to SH29A Barks Corner and addresses access concerns at Belk and Gargan roads.

I am pleased to let you know that the 2024-27 National Land Transport Programme includes funding for Value for Money Safety Improvements, including upgrades in signs and markings on SH29 near the Kaimai Summit. I am advised by NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) that these will be timed in with its upcoming maintenance programme, whereby a large programme of maintenance works for SH29 is planned over the coming months.

Throughout the season, the NZTA maintenance crews will be carrying out nightworks between October and May. I am advised that NZTA will also be holding a series of full closures for the state highway to undertake more intensive maintenance treatments such as asphalt renewals. While disruptive in the short-term, in the long-term, road users will benefit from a more reliable and safer route over the Kaimai Range.

With the Incident Response criteria, NZTA respond to crashes and provide support to Police. The process of a crash scene is managed and processed by Police.

Thank you again for writing.

Yours sincerely,

Hon Simeon Brown  
**Minister of Transport**