



Te Hapori Hōiho -
The National Māori
Horse Association
Aotearoa Trust
3740 SH 50
Maraekakaho
Hastings RD1
PH 021514225

2nd August 2024

Tena koe Julia,
Ngā mihi nunui mo to mahi rangatira e pa ana ki te mahi eke hōiho i te rori.

I am writing to behalf of Te Hapori Hōiho -The National Māori Horse Association Aotearoa Trust to give our full support for the advocacy to ensure horse riders are formally recognised as Vulnerable Road Users in New Zealand transport legislation.

Since 1814, when the rangatira Ruatara brought horses to Aotearoa, with the missionary Samuel Marsden, horses have played an important role within Māori culture. We have witnessed renewed surge in horse ownership and in participation in horse sports over the last decade. In 2024, with our population on the cusp of a one million, there have never been more Māori horsemen in our history, participating to a broad range of equine employment, community recreation and sporting activities. As Māori we have the highest proportion of the population (32%) living in small urban areas and rural areas according to <https://www.ehinz.ac.nz/>, and we would argue that our people have the largest proportion of regular horse riding road uses. For many Māori, almost 33% of residents in R3 (most remote/rural), riding a horse along a road is often a necessity rather than recreation. Given this and that most of the roads in New Zealand have been built on Māori land taken under the Public Works Act, we are highly motivated to see that this practice is continued.

Improving safety for all New Zealand road uses is extremely important to us and we believe that recognition of horse riders as vulnerable users will ensure the consideration in decision making and allow for formal safety messaging to help keep riders safe on the roads. Te Hapori Hōiho-The National Māori Horse Association Aotearoa Trust supports this initiative in solidarity with the other equestrian stakeholder groups.

Ngā mihi
Michelle Lee
National Coordinator
Te Hapori Hōiho

Kia kokea ngā āheinga me ngā pae taumata o te eke hōiho. Ngā āheinga anō mō te whakatipu hōiho, ngā pākihi hōiho mō te whānau, hapu me ngā iwi huri noa i Aotearoa.

To advance the opportunities and standards of horse riding, breeding and employment across Aotearoa New Zealand for whānau, hapu and iwi as a hapori.