



## By email

15 August 2024

Hon Simeon Brown  
Minister of Transport  
[s.brown@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:s.brown@ministers.govt.nz)

Tēnā koe Minister,

### Recognition of horse riders as riders as vulnerable road users

I am writing to you in my capacity as chair of the Wellington Regional Transport Committee.

At our meeting on 23 July, we received a presentation from Julia McLean on behalf of the New Zealand Equestrian Advocacy Group, highlighting the serious dangers faced by horse riders on New Zealand roads.

In times past most families had a connection to the country and understood how a motorist should behave on the road when passing horses. Today, with population growth mostly in our cities, this connection has all but disappeared and riding a horse along even a quiet country road can be a frightening and dangerous experience. As a rider I can give you plenty of first-hand encounters of inconsiderate motorists.

Parliament will soon be receiving a petition asking for greater recognition of horse riders as vulnerable road users, calling for consistency and inclusion in road safety initiatives and access to shared pathways. Horse riding is a popular and healthy sport with a large cohort of young riders in this country but sadly lacking recognition when it comes to road safety. In preparing this petition, nobody is asking for special treatment, just equity in safe road access for all.

I therefore ask that when the petition is received that its recommendations be given serious consideration and not dismissed as a fringe group. There are over forty thousand horse riders in New Zealand who should be able to access our roads just as safely as our pedestrians and cyclists.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Adrienne Staples".

**Adrienne Staples**  
Chair, Wellington Regional Transport Committee

Wellington office  
PO Box 11646  
Manners St, Wellington 6142

Upper Hutt  
PO Box 40847  
1056 Fergusson Drive

Masterton office  
PO Box 41  
Masterton 5840

0800 496 734  
[www.gw.govt.nz](http://www.gw.govt.nz)  
[info@gw.govt.nz](mailto:info@gw.govt.nz)