



Media Release

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Another cost of living increase with road user charges

New Zealanders' concerns about the cost of living will take a further hit when road user charges (RUCs) go up again in July, says Road Transport Forum (RTF) chief executive Nick Leggett.

"The reality is that it is consumers who will end up paying for the five to six percent increase in RUCs that begin on 1 July this year," Leggett says.

"These RUC charges add to a road transport operator's operating costs. Trucking companies already operate on tight margins, so additional expenses have to be passed down the supply chain and it is the end consumer that pays.

"When you think about all the goods that are transported by truck, including essentials such as food and the exports that keep our economy moving, each additional cost to transporting goods costs every New Zealander.

"Take a look at the [Consumer Cost of Living](#) survey and you will see how concerned New Zealanders are about increasing costs of life's essentials. No business wants to keep passing on costs, but they will be out of business if they don't.

"The RTF 100 percent backs the need to improve New Zealand's transport infrastructure. Transport operators accept the high level of RUC is due to the direct relationship the National Land Transport Fund (NLTF) has to the roading network.

"Unfortunately, despite the promises made when the Government announced the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport last year, the reality is that New Zealand's roading infrastructure has failed to keep up with a growing economy and greater number of road users. Less is being spent when more should be.

"The state of our roads is a major concern to the road transport industry, not only because poor and congested roads impact on our productivity and hasten the wear and tear on vehicles, but also because poor quality roads impact safety.

"There has to be a big picture view here. Road users and the New Zealand public can't just keep paying more for everything and getting little in return," Leggett says.

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About Road Transport Forum New Zealand (RTF)

RTF provides unified national representation for several regional trucking associations. RTF members include Road Transport Associations NZ, National Road Carriers, and NZ Trucking Association. The affiliated representation of the RTF is about 3,000 individual road transport companies which in turn, operate 16-18,000 trucks involved in road freight transport, as well as companies that provide services allied to road freight transport.

The road freight transport industry employs 26,600 people (3.0% of the workforce), has a gross annual turnover of \$6 billion, and transports about 70% of New Zealand's land-based freight measured on a tonne/kilometre basis.