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## **Covid level moves create supply chain issues**

As Auckland heads into a new Level 3 in response to community transfer of Covid-19, a lot of questions remain unanswered for the business community, Road Transport Forum (RTF) chief executive Nick Leggett says.

“People are flooding to supermarkets which will put pressure on the supply chain, that is, the trucks that get the products to the supermarkets and other shops where people are heading for essential supplies,” Leggett says.

“But we are unclear how trucks are going to flow in and out of Auckland with stops at the entry/exit borders to the city.

“Long delays in traffic present a number of issues for the supply chain. These include potential damage to perishable goods, health and safety considerations for drivers who are restricted by the hours they can work, and missing deadlines to ports and airports for exports and imports.

“All these things will have impacts to a wide range of businesses already struggling economically from the effects of Covid-19. What happens in Auckland impacts the whole country.

“BusinessNZ head Kirk Hope is calling on the Government for more information for business and I back that call.

“We could forgive hiccups the first time around, but allegedly the Government has a plan. We need to see that plan before there is mayhem at the shops.”

### **For more information contact:**

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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 Association 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 32,868 people (2.0% of the workforce), has a gross annual turnover of \$6 billion, and transports 93% of the total tonnes of freight moved in New Zealand.