



National Council of Women of New Zealand

Te Kaunihera
Wahine O Aotearoa

National Office
Level 4 Central House
26 Brandon Street
PO Box 25-498
Wellington 6146
(04) 473 7623
www.ncwnz.org.nz

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Submission to the Land Transport Safety Authority on Land Transport Rule: Traffic Control Devices Rule 54002

INTRODUCTION

The National Council of Women of New Zealand (NCWNZ) is an umbrella organisation representing 43 nationally organised societies. It has 35 branches throughout the country attended by representatives of those societies and some 150 other societies. The Council's function is to serve women, the family and the community at local, national and international level through research, study, discussion and action. The Council has been serving in this way since 1896 and it was in 1931 that NCWNZ passed their first resolution on transport and safety matters. With this submission the Council continues to use its diverse knowledge, networks and experience to influence changes in rules regulations and legislation for the benefit of women and families in every community of New Zealand.

In the preparation of this submission NCWNZ has consulted widely with local authorities, road users and women's organisations.

NCWNZ is pleased to comment on the overview and draft rule changes, which aim to clarify, consolidate and create land transport laws. Our organisation has an interest in initiatives which improve safety through the use of Traffic Control Devices.

SPECIFIC COMMENTS

NCWNZ agrees with the overview regarding clarification in wording to ensure understanding. We support the changes to sign and marking formats. We express some concern about the management of transition for changes and would like to be assured that road users will be well informed and familiar with any changes in signs or markings before they are installed. We support changes towards the standardisation of white and yellow road markings.

NCWNZ is aware of the proposed changes outlined in the 20 June 2001 consultation paper. Our organisation supports these proposed changes to roundabouts, cycle lanes and pedestrian crossings.

Roundabouts

We support the proposals with regard to marking and traffic rules which cover the use of indicators when entering and exiting roundabouts to improve road safety.

Marking of cycle lanes

We support the proposed *Land Transport Rule: Road User* establishing rules for cycle lanes. This will give cyclists certainty of usage and help to improve their safety.

Pedestrian Crossings

The changes with regard to pedestrian crossings being treated as two separate crossings, 'only where there is a traffic island interrupting it', will give clarity of direction to road users.





NCWNZ does express concern about the design of School crossing points. At these crossings the protrusion of pavement into the road gives no consideration to cyclists' access through the crossing. This design has caused fatal accidents and needs modification to accommodate or define rules which assure safety to all road users as well as pedestrians.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

We support the purpose of the proposed rule to contribute to the safe and efficient operation of our road network in regard to:

- Uniformity in the form and placement of traffic control devices,
- Minimum standards,
- Installation obligations,
- Ensuring road controlling authorities are aware of their obligations with respect to safe practice and the design and installation of traffic control devices.

NCWNZ has raised concerns around the design of one of the proposed devices known to have caused a fatal accident. We suggest that the Traffic Control Devices be monitored.

Barbara Glenie
National President

Marion Miller
Convener, Public Issues Standing Committee