



Cabinet Business Committee

Minute of Decision

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Decarbonisation of the Public Transport Bus Fleet

Portfolio **Transport**

On 9 December 2020, the Cabinet Business Committee:

- 1 **noted** that the government is committed to:
 - 1.1 requiring that only zero-emission public transport buses be purchased by 2025;
 - 1.2 a target of decarbonising the public transport bus fleet by 2035;
 - 1.3 supporting regional councils to achieve these outcomes with a \$50 million fund over four years;
- 2 **noted** that decarbonising public transport is included in the Cooperation Agreement between the Labour and Green parties;
- 3 **noted** that further work on decarbonising public transport more broadly will be done as part of the area of cooperation with the Green Party;
- 4 **noted** that local government is the key actor to decarbonise the public transport bus fleet and faces a range of barriers to achieving this outcome;
- 5 **agreed** that officials will commence a work programme to support local government to decarbonise the public transport bus fleet by addressing systemic barriers;

Under active consideration
- 6
- 7 **invited** the Minister of Transport to report back to Cabinet in the first half of 2021:
 - 7.1 with the outcomes of engagement with the sector on the system settings that need to be addressed to enable accelerated decarbonisation of the bus fleet;
 - 7.2 with proposals to extend the road user charge exemption for heavy electric vehicles and broaden it to cover vehicles with other low emission power sources;
 - 7.3 on how funding for decarbonising the public transport bus fleet should be spent;

7.4

[REDACTED]

- 8 **noted** that this report back will include consideration of the Green Party’s views;
- 9 **noted** that legislative change may be necessary to require that only zero-emission public transport buses be purchased by 2025, and the Minister of Transport will engage with the sector to determine whether legislative change is required;
- 10 **noted** that there are short-term non-legislative measures that could encourage the sector to make the transition to zero-emission buses;
- 11 **invited** the Minister of Transport to reiterate the government’s commitment to decarbonising the bus fleet in the Letter of Expectations to the Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency Board for 2021/2022.

Gerrard Carter
Committee Secretary

Present:

- Hon Grant Robertson (Chair)
- Hon Dr Megan Woods
- Hon Carmel Sepuloni
- Hon Andrew Little
- Hon David Parker
- Hon Nanaia Mahuta
- Hon Poto Williams
- Hon Damien O’Connor
- Hon Michael Wood

Officials present from:

- Office of the Prime Minister
- Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet