

**Government Response to
Report of Petitions Committee
on
Petition of Shane Riddle: That children are allowed to cycle slowly
on footpaths**

**Presented to the House of Representatives
In accordance with Standing Orders 256 and 381**

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Introduction

- 1 The Government has carefully considered the Petitions Committee's (the Committee) report on the petition of Shane Riddle: That children are allowed to cycle slowly on footpaths.
- 2 The Government welcomes the Committee's report, which represents a contribution to the development of policy on lane use.
- 3 The Government responds to the report in accordance with Standing Order 256.
- 4 The Government has acted on the Committee's recommendations.

Recommendation

- 5 The Petitions Committee has considered the petition of Shane Riddle—That children are allowed to cycle slowly on footpaths—and recommends to the Government that it consider the issues raised in Ms Riddle's petition as part of its upcoming consultation.
- 6 The Government acknowledges the recommendation of the Committee. The petition states that it is safer for children to cycle on footpaths than on the road, and that the current wheel diameter limit for cycling on the footpath should be replaced with an age limit.

Government response

- 7 Earlier this year, the Minister of Transport agreed that the NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) would consult the public on a package of proposed changes to the Land Transport (Road User) Rule 2004 (the Rule). The proposed changes are designed to improve safety, clarify the Rule, and better reflect how footpaths, lanes and roads are used now and in the future. Consultation opened to the public on Wednesday 25 February 2026 and closes on Wednesday 25 March 2026.
- 8 As part of this package, the Government is consulting on a proposal to allow children aged 12 years and under to cycle on footpaths. The Government is also consulting on a proposal to allow e-scooters to be ridden in cycle lanes. Officials considered the petition of Shane Riddle when developing policy options to allow children to cycle on footpaths.
- 9 The proposal to allow children under 12 years to cycle on the footpath provides an appropriate balance between ensuring the safety of young cyclists and the safety of other footpath users.

- 10 The proposal does not extend to adults or caregivers riding alongside children. This reflects the potential additional risk of injury posed by larger riders to other footpath users.
- 11 The Government welcomes public feedback on these proposals.

Conclusion

- 12 The Government has responded to the petitioner's concerns and the Committee's recommendations. The Government is currently consulting the public on a proposal to allow children aged 12 years and under to cycle on footpaths.

Office of the Minister of Transport