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Resilience for the Future

Whakamahinga ki ngā mea kei a tātou:
He manawaroa mō ngā rā anamata
Transportation Conference 2026



TRANSPORTATION
GROUP
NEW ZEALAND



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Gap analysis: above average road deaths despite World leading enforcement

New Zealand Police is delivering World leading levels of road safety enforcement. The focus is on behaviours that pose the greatest risk to death and injury, in particular speed, impairment by alcohol drugs or fatigue, restraint use, and distracted driving. This strong and sustained focus on effective enforcement has contributed to record low rates of road deaths. However, despite this, the rate of deaths on New Zealand roads continues to be higher than the OECD average. The overarching difference between New Zealand and leading OECD nations is that those leading countries have adopted a holistic Safe System approach. The New Zealand experience demonstrates that you cannot enforce your way to optimal road safety outcome benefits in the absence effective Safe System implementation. The greatest impacts are the losses of life and traumatic injuries, but the reach is much further. It is life-changing for the loved ones of victims. There are wide ranging social and financial effects, especially to the health sector but also to the likes of the transport sector due to unscheduled and lengthy road closures or detours. What practical steps can be taken towards closing the Safe System gap so that the World leading Police enforcement is matched by World leading road safety outcomes for New Zealand?

Presenter: Inspector Peter McKennie, New Zealand Police