# An equity lens on transport decarbonisation

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| Transport decarbonisation should be considered with an equity lens if policy and investment are intended to improve wellbeing for all people. Both transport disadvantage (lack of choices) and transport poverty (unaffordability related to forced expenditure on transport) are apparent all around the world, including in Auckland. Some groups of people are known to find it more difficult than others to access transport safely and easily. Groups investigated for this work include Māori; women; the LGBTQI+ community; disabled people; older people; ethnic minorities; and low-income groups.  This research, commissioned by the Auckland Policy Office of the Ministry of Transport, involved a literature review and interviews with non-government organisations to investigate equity in Auckland’s transport system. It concluded that low-income people face the toughest challenges accessing and affording transport, and there are problems with access and personal security for other groups.  Many people seeking advice or social support in Auckland find it difficult and expensive to get around the city. They consider it essential to own a car when other options do not work well. Work and other activities are not close enough to walk to; the cycling networks are not safe enough; and public transport is neither frequent nor direct for people who do not work in the central city and live close to train lines or rapid bus routes.  While the transport industry works to improve walking, cycling, and public transport, we need to ensure that transport decarbonisation policies do not increase inequity by making access to a car more expensive for those who have no other realistic choices. Increased focus on decarbonisation should be considered with regard for accessibility and affordability of transport for all people. The presentation will discuss opportunities to consider transport decarbonisation and equity together, so that all Aucklanders can live better lives. |