

Media Statement
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Electronic Road Pricing is Coming – Let's Get Ready

New Zealanders should get ready to pay for the roads they use. That's the clear signal from today's announcement of electronic Road User Charges (E-RUC), unveiled at Building Nations 2025. The move confirms a critical principle in infrastructure funding – that those who use our roads should pay for their maintenance and renewal, says Infrastructure New Zealand Chief Executive Nick Leggett.

"User-charging is a fair, proven way to fund infrastructure. E-RUC will make it easier to apply that principle consistently across all vehicles, whether petrol, diesel, electric or hybrid, and as our transport system evolves."

"As we move to new vehicle technologies, we can't afford to let the funding base erode. E-RUC gives us the tools to fairly and more efficiently charge all vehicle users based on how much they use the network, regardless of what fuel is powering their vehicle."

"Retaining the integrity of the National Land Transport Fund is critical," Leggett says. "Every dollar collected through RUC must continue to be ringfenced for land transport, that's the social contract that underpins public trust in the system."

Infrastructure New Zealand supports the Government's proposal to focus NZTA on its regulatory role and enable the provision of E-RUC services by the private sector.

"We also see the use of flexible payment methods and the integration of E-RUC with other transport charges such as tolling and congestion pricing as sensible moves," says Leggett.

"It's vital to create a system that is easy for customers to use. Making compliance simple and uncomplicated will ensure the system is effective, fair, and widely supported."

"RUC is about ensuring road users contribute their fair share to the infrastructure they use and moving to an electronic system will improve accuracy, efficiency and fairness, and better target where network investment is needed."

Infrastructure New Zealand looks forward to working with the Government and industry to ensure E-RUC is implemented in a way that's sustainable over the long term.

ENDS

Infrastructure New Zealand is Aotearoa's peak membership organisation for the infrastructure sector. We promote best practice in national infrastructure development through research, advocacy, and public and private sector collaboration. We promote public and media discussion on issues of importance to the infrastructure sector. Our membership is comprised of around 140 organisations, including government agencies, consultants, contractors, financiers, utilities, and academics. These organisations employ approximately 150,000 people in infrastructure-related roles and are united in their commitment to creating a better New Zealand through outstanding infrastructure.

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