

OC230751

14 September 2023

Zac Ringrose  
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Tēnā koe Zac

I refer to your request dated 25 July 2023, transferred from Waka Kotahi to Te Manatū Waka Ministry of Transport on 21 August 2023, requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*Could I get the projections / forecasting that would substantiate the quote of the Climate Change Minister "This increase in funding will help us to take cars off the road while cutting pollution that goes into the atmosphere. More people using public transport is critical to reducing our climate emissions and to increasing our wellbeing."*

I have interpreted your request to include projections and forecasting of the impact of extending the Community Connect scheme to provide half price fares for people under 25 years and free fares for children. The following documents fall within the scope of your request and are enclosed:

- *Community Connect for different age combos.xlsx; and*
- *Extending Community Connect to under 25s methodology documentation.*

The spreadsheet was developed to estimate the potential increase in public transport patronage, the potential reduction in emissions, and the possible funding needed to extend Community Connect to various age groups under 25 years.

To support the testing of a range of policy scenarios, the spreadsheet has settings that allow the user to switch between different sets of assumptions or change the policy settings, such as the targeted age groups and the subsidy applied to them. The accompanying word document titled *Extending Community Connect to under 25s methodological documentation* explains the inputs, assumptions, and workings.

Using this model, the Ministry estimates the extension to the Community Connect scheme will reduce car trips by approximately 6.9 million for the years 2023/24 to 2026/27. The estimated emissions reduction for the same period is between 2.4 and 15.3 Kt CO<sub>2</sub>e (kilotonne of carbon dioxide emissions).

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of this response by the Ombudsman, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found on the Ombudsman's website [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz)

The Ministry publishes our Official Information Act responses and the information contained in our reply to you may be published on the Ministry website. Before publishing we will remove any personal or identifiable information.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Skinner', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Matt Skinner  
**Manager Mobility and Safety**