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Heavy Vehicles and the Community Working Together

Dennis Robertson
September 2008

New Zealand Government

"The Volume of freight carried on New Zealand roads is threatening to double in little more than a decade"

John McCrone, The Press July 2008

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Trucking is a crucial part of New Zealand's economy, but for many of us sharing the road with trucks is a daunting experience.

Motorists are intimidated by the sheer size and noise of trucks, and a perception they're unsafe.

Automobile Association of New Zealand

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What is the situation

What are the issues

What are communities and operators doing about it

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What is the situation

The road toll

Road crash casualties and vehicle fleet compared to 1990

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What is the situation

The road toll

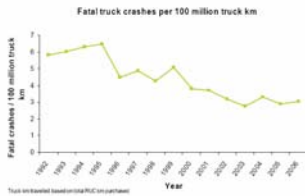
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What is the situation

The road toll

Taking into account the increase in truck traffic the level of safety has improved. The number of fatal crashes that involve a truck for every 100 million kilometres driven by trucks has halved since the early 1990's.



What is the situation

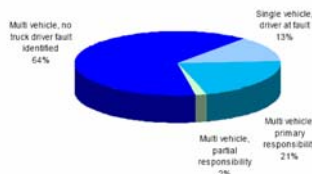
The road toll



What is the situation

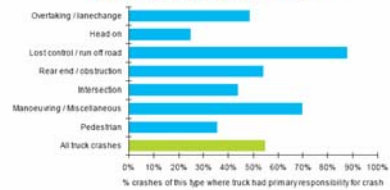
The road toll

Truck driver fault in fatal crashes 2002-2006



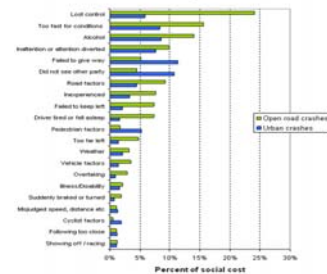
What are the issues

Percentage of truck crashes where the truck driver had the primary responsibility for the crash 2002-2006



What are the issues

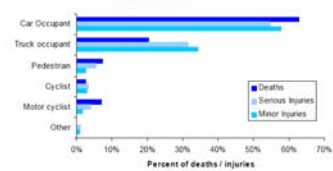
Factors contributing to crashes



What are the issues

Types of road users killed and injured in crashes involving trucks

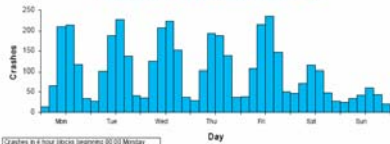
Types of road users killed and injured in truck crashes, by injury severity, 2002-2006



What are the issues

When do crashes happen?

Fatal and injury truck crashes (2002-2006)



Crashes in a four blocks beginning 00:00 Monday

- The peak times for truck accidents are during the main working hours of between 8am and 4pm on weekdays.

What are the issues

The freight task

GPS - to increase the amount of freight moved by coastal shipping and rail
Rail from 18 to 25% and sea from 15 to 30% by 2040

Freight / vehicle increase at 1.4 times GDP (Between 1992-2006 GDP increased by 61%, yet truck kilometres increased by 87%)

TERNZ - expect a 85% increase in heavy vehicle travel to 2020

Government prediction is a growth of 70% by 2040

More Trucks

What are the issues

The car/truck story

Will cars ownership and Kilometres travel continue to grow ?

Will the price of petrol / diesel have any impact on car travel

Will the GPS have the desired impact

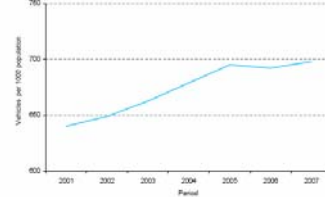
- ie Reduce the kilometres travelled by single occupancy by 10% by 2015
- Increase Public transport

More Trucks

What are the issues

The car/truck story

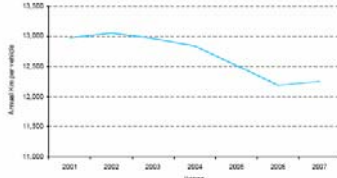
Figure 1.5: Light fleet ownership per 1000 population



What are the issues

The car/truck story

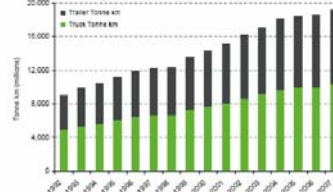
Figure 1.7: Light fleet average annual travel per vehicle



What are the issues

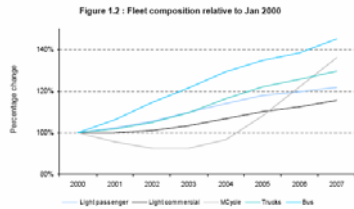
The car/truck story

Figure 11.2: Truck and trailer tonne km



What are the issues

The car/truck story



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What are communities and operators doing about it

The changing (reducing crash rate of trucks) as a result in intervention such as the logging industry implemented

Fatigue projects carried out 18 months? backed by RTA.

ACC / RTA seat belt campaigns

Tourist operator systems being required by China /ADS

Good stuff



Sharing Our Roads - an educational programme where school children and truck drivers are brought together to learn about practical safety measures which can keep kids safe.



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What are communities and operators doing about it

"Sharing Our Roads" - Key to community success

Still have the problem with speed

Road user feel intimidated by trucks

Negative attitudes toward truck drivers

Some negative attitudes and behaviour from truck drivers

Rural communities and State Highways have increased numbers of trucks



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What are communities and operators doing about it

The Kaikoura Coast State Highway Study

Crash rate - what can be done

More in-depth analysis and understanding

What could be done



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What are communities and operators doing about it

Dean Palmer and Tony McNeil, NZTA



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What are communities and operators doing about it

"Sharing our Roads"

What was done

2 - 3 years of involvement

What could be done



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What are communities and operators doing about it

Chris Neason and Graeme Barber

Woodend school

Summary

We are going to see a marked increase of trucks on NZ roads

Operators can make a significant difference

Working with communities have positive outcomes

Success is not costly or difficult - it requires attitude and commitment