

13 December 2021

Iain Palmer
fyi-request-17738-338e6334@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref. NZT-6855

Dear Iain

Thank you for your email of 27 November 2021 regarding Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency support for rail heritage groups in the 2020 financial year, and Waka Kotahi policy for engaging with these groups. Your correspondence has been referred to me as these matters fall within my responsibilities as Senior Manager for Safer Rail.

Waka Kotahi frequently engages with rail heritage groups through the National Rail Industry Advisory Forum, which we facilitate. This brings together all parts of the rail industry in New Zealand, including tourist and heritage groups.

Waka Kotahi has primary regulatory responsibility for rail safety in New Zealand. The Safer Rail team undertook a range of activities to promote rail safety with its rail license holders in the tourist and heritage section. This included completing 34 safety assessments of tourist and heritage operations and adding guidance to the Waka Kotahi rail website (www.nzta.govt.nz/roads-and-rail/rail/) on governance and conducting an internal audit. The team also gave several seminars to Federation of Rail Organisers NZ (FRONZ) members. Topics included preparing for a safety assessment, risk management, assurance and incident reporting. Waka Kotahi Safer Rail also supports and presents at the FRONZ annual conference and provides a rail safety award. This year, it was won by the Nelson Railway Society Incorporated for the risk-based approach they used in the development and construction of the New Western Link Line.

Finally, licence holders are exempt from paying the variable portion of the annual safety charge if they are a registered charity or a volunteer organisation, making it easier for heritage and tourist rail operations to operate.

I hope this response has provided some insight as to how Waka Kotahi works alongside the heritage and tourist rail industry. If you would like to discuss this matter further with Waka Kotahi, you are welcome to contact Natalie Wyatt-Renney, Manager Rail Support Systems, by email at natalie.wyatt-renney@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely



Gini Welch
Senior Manager Safer Rail