

Land Transport Amendment Bill Submission Guide

Alcohol impaired driving remains one of the most significant factors contributing to New Zealand's road toll. As a percentage of all road fatalities, alcohol-related deaths have increased since 2000.

A part of its commitment to road safety and the Safer Journeys Action Plan the Government announced their decision to lower the adult drink-driving limit on 4th November 2013. To achieve this change, the Land Transport Amendment Bill was introduced to Parliament on 19th November 2013. The Bill passed its first reading on 3rd December 2013 and was referred to the Transport and Industrial relations Committee for public consultation. The Committee is now accepting public submissions. **Submissions close 14 February 2014.**

What does the Land Transport Amendment Bill do?

The Land Transport Amendment Bill amends the Land Transport Act 1998 in order to:

- lower the legal blood and breath alcohol concentration (BAC) from 80 milligrams to 50 milligrams per 100 millilitres of blood (0.08 to 0.05) and from 400 micrograms to 250 micrograms per litre of breath for adult drivers over 20 years of age.
- introduce an infringement offence for driving with blood alcohol levels between 51 and 80mg per 100ml of blood or 251-400mcg per litre of breath.
- set a \$200 infringement fine and 50 demerit points for those who drink and drive in the new infringement offence range and a \$500 fine and 50 demerit points if the blood test was taken after the person failed or refused to undergo an evidential breath test.
- allow an enforcement officer to immobilise a vehicle or forbid a person to drive if it appears to the enforcement officer that the result of an evidential breath test is positive (currently this can be done only if the person's breath exceeds 400 micrograms of alcohol per litre of breath).
- make other technical changes in regards to blood alcohol testing and recovering the costs of blood tests.

Please note:

- blood alcohol limit for drivers under 20 years of age remains at zero.
- driving with a blood-alcohol concentration above 80mg per 100ml of blood i.e 0.08 remains a criminal offence and existing penalties apply, including a three month driver license suspension applies for drivers who accumulate 100 or more demerit points from driving offences within two years and
- drink drivers who accumulate 100 or more demerit points within a two year period under the proposed regime will incur a three month driver license suspension.

Alcohol Healthwatch encourages you and/or your organisation to make a submission supporting the proposed changes for the implementation of evidence based measure to reduce death and injury on our roads. The Bill will not only save lives and improve road safety for all New Zealanders it will also reduce social costs. Despite there already being strong evidence and high levels of public support for

a reduction of blood alcohol levels, subsequent Government's have failed to adopt the measure, so it is important that the Committee hears your support to make the change happen.

You can use the attached submission template to make your submission. Submission template can also be downloaded from www.ahw.org.nz

There is an opportunity to make an oral submission if you state that you wish to do so.

Information for making a submission:

You could either:

Send 2 hard copies of your submission to:

Committee Secretariat
Transport and Industrial Relations
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Or submit online at:

http://www.parliament.nz/en-nz/pb/sc/make-submission/50SCTIR_SCF_00DBHOH_BILL12874_1/land-transport-amendment-bill

(If you are unable to open the link visit Parliament website www.parliament.govt.nz and type 'Land Transport Amendment Bill submission' in the search box and press enter. Click the first link and it will take you straight to the online submission page.)

Please note: Submissions close 14 February 2014.

If you would like any further information on the Bill or help with your submission, please contact Raj at raj@ahw.org.nz or (09) 520 7039.