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## Media Statement

### Government to combat vehicle exhausts noise

The Minister for Transport Safety, Harry Duynhoven, today announced a new proposal to combat excessive noise from motor vehicles.

“A small number of vehicles are creating a great deal of nuisance. There is a need to address the impacts of excessive noise from vehicles and to identify acceptable levels of vehicle noise,” Harry Duynhoven said.

Primary among these measures will be the introduction of an objective noise test to supplement the subjective noise test currently being used by warrant and certificate of fitness testing agents.

“I have directed Ministry of Transport officials to introduce an objective noise test and specific decibel limit for vehicles, based on the international ISO 5130 measurement of exhaust sound level emitted by stationary road vehicles and the Australian National Stationary Exhaust Noise Test Procedure,” Harry Duynhoven said.

This proposal would enhance the recent increase of the infringement fee currently issued by NZ Police to enforce the driver behaviour aspect of the noisy vehicle rules (Road User Rule 2004). Under the recently passed Land Transport Amendment Act 2005 the infringement fee for this offence is raised to \$250 and 10 demerit points are imposed. Previously, the infringement fee was \$150 and no demerit points were imposed.

“I have requested Land Transport New Zealand review its audit regime of warrant and certificate of fitness and ‘at border’ testing agents to ensure the system is robust and accountable. This will include the auditing of noise compliance with current legislation. I have also asked Land Transport New Zealand to investigate options to ensure the exhaust manufacturing, supply and repair industry ensures their products are legally compliant,” Harry Duynhoven said.

To address the wider sources of land transport noise, transport officials in conjunction with other government officials, are in the process of investigating a National Environmental Standard for land transport noise, as part of the government’s commitment to reducing the environmental and human health impacts of land transport.

“Excess noise pollution from vehicles disrupts people’s lives and is the source of great annoyance and frustration for many people. The government is committed to dealing with this environmental hazard to improve the well being of New Zealanders,” Harry Duynhoven said.

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