



Building the Future: **More Police on Auckland's buses and trains**

Auckland's public transport network has just got a lot bigger. The City Rail Link adds three underground stations and lifts peak capacity through the city centre by around half. That is a big win for Auckland, and it means more passengers, later services, and enclosed platforms below ground where help needs to be close at hand.

Most journeys on Auckland's public transport network pass without incident. But too many Aucklanders now think twice before taking the train after dark, or before

letting their teenager catch the bus home from a late shift. Drivers have been assaulted at the wheel and passengers have watched anti-social behaviour unfold in a carriage knowing help was a long way away.

Every Aucklander should be able to catch a bus, train or ferry and feel safe doing it.

As Auckland's public transport network grows, National will ensure that safety measures grow with it.

National will establish a dedicated Auckland Transport Police Team to improve safety across Auckland's public transport network.

New Zealand Police will be funded to provide a visible presence on buses, trains, ferries, stations and interchanges.

The team will focus on preventing anti-social behaviour, protecting passengers and transport staff, responding quickly to incidents, and bolstering confidence in safety on public transport. The purpose will be to deter crime before it happens, and make sure that when a serious incident does occur, it gets an immediate police response.

These types of units are commonplace in other cities offshore with large, sophisticated transport networks. The British Transport Police, comprising

over 3000 constables, is responsible for the whole British rail network, with a significant presence on London's transport system. In Australia, New South Wales and Victoria each also have dedicated police presences on their transport networks.

Auckland Transport's transport officers already play an important role in managing incidents and supporting passengers, but they do not have the powers of a sworn police officer. They cannot make an arrest, they can only observe an incident and report it. And while New Zealand Police regularly support transport operations, there is no dedicated transport policing capability focused on Auckland's growing network.

The team will be established in Auckland in the first instance, with expansion to other centres considered if it succeeds.

Building on National's work to restore law and order

Since coming into Government, National has worked hard to restore law and order after the previous Labour Government oversaw increased levels of crime.

The National-led Government has sent a clear message that we are tough on crime and we have pursued policies that crack down on gangs and criminals, including:

- Banning gang patches in public.
- Giving Police stronger powers and put more officers on the beat.
- Capping sentence discounts so judges can no longer slash penalties for offenders.
- Restoring Three Strikes for the worst repeat offenders.
- Introducing tougher tools, like move-on orders, to reclaim our town centres.

We have also increased police visibility in our communities. In 2025 alone, Police carried out nearly double as many foot patrols as they did during Labour's final year in government.

The results show that when a Government is tough on crime and prioritises increased police visibility in our communities, there is less crime and fewer victims.

Compared to when Labour was in Government:

- Ram raids are down 85 per cent.
- Youth offending is down 26 per cent.
- There are 37,000 fewer victims of serious violent crime.

A visible police presence helps deter offending before it occurs. Boosting the visible police presence on trains, buses and ferries, and at stations and transport hubs, reassures passengers and transport staff, and ensures rapid intervention when something does go wrong.

How will the Auckland Transport Police Team be established?

Following the election, the Minister of Police will refresh the letter of expectations to the Commissioner of Police to highlight the importance of police visibility on the public transport network as a critical part of keeping Auckland safe.

Police will be explicitly resourced to establish this team, with funding to recruit an additional 50 officers to fulfil this function. Consistent with their independent operational role, Police will retain full decision-making powers on the size, location, and timing of any police presence on Auckland's public transport network, including which stations and routes have more visible policing.

Fiscal impact

An additional \$7 million per year will be made available to Police to run this pilot, funded through Budget 2027. This cost is based on the "500 Police" initiative in Budget 2024, updated slightly to reflect the recent Police pay round.

That funding will support Police to recruit an additional 50 sworn officers to fulfil this function. The exact size of these teams and their locations will be an operational matter for New Zealand Police.