# Transport for human and planetary wellbeing

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| Transport systems influence our health and wellbeing in a variety of ways. They distribute access to the social determinants of health, such as education, employment, income, housing and health care. They also influence exposures to a range of health-related factors, both beneficial (e.g. physical activity and social connection) and harmful (e.g. air pollution and physical hazards). In addition, transport plays a significant role in planetary wellbeing, for example in Aotearoa New Zealand contributing approximately 20% of total greenhouse gas emissions.  Transport systems that currently predominate in countries like Aotearoa are overwhelmingly harmful – socially, economically, environmentally, and in relation to health and wellbeing. They also contribute to unacceptable and growing social and health inequities. In a time of climate crisis, which represents the greatest threat to human health this century, our transport systems are clearly unfit for purpose. The climate crisis requires immediate, transformative global action on an unprecedented scale. Anything resembling business-as-usual is not an option. And yet our leaders’ visions for the future tend to be simply a greener version of the status quo.  In this presentation I argue that we need to fundamentally rethink and redesign our transport systems. That doesn’t mean incremental adjustments within existing parameters – it means a radical transformation grounded in a different set of norms, values and principles. It means engaging in a process of decolonisation and re-indigenisation to create transport systems that support human and planetary wellbeing. There are important steps that we must take, privileging Indigenous knowledges and upholding Indigenous rights, in order to achieve health, equity and sustainable development. |