# Decarbonising the freight supply chain

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| To meet our international commitments and to mitigate the worst effects of climate change, we need to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. While this objective is challenging enough in most parts of the transport system, decarbonising the freight system has its own particularly and significant challenges.  The freight system is complex and growing, as the flow of goods increase to service our growing population and economy. Freight, particularly road transport that delivers around 70% of the freight task, is a key contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. If we do not act now, projections are that emissions from road freight vehicles will continue to increase until 2055.  Nationally, heavy trucks (over 10 tonnes) accounted for around 25% of greenhouse gases in 2017, while only representing 7% of the kilometres travelled. While light commercial vehicles (freight and services) make up almost 20% of greenhouse gases. The larger emissions footprint for freight is due to the disproportionately high kilometres travelled, the use of diesel to move heavier vehicles (which has a higher carbon content than petrol). New Zealand’s heavy vehicle fleet also tends to be older, with many trucks having older technology.  The Sustainable Business Council (SBC) has undertaken work to look at how we can develop a common industry pathway for decarbonising the national freight supply chain. The report sets out the targets of halving emissions by 2030 and achieving net zero by 2050. This approach takes an overlapping approach of short, medium and long-term steps across a range of interventions.  Most importantly the SBC commissioned report provides a basis for the development of a work programme between the freight sector and government. Because of the many decisionmakers across the freight sector, who are driven by commercial considerations and customer requirements, the approach to decarbonising freight will need to be quite different from that used in other parts of the transport system.  This paper will set out the preferred approach and how the SBC decarbonisation objectives are achievable through a combined and coordinated action programme.  Speaker: TBC: Either Mike Burrell, Executive Director at Sustainable Business Council  Or Marinus La Rooij, Freight Specialist at TSA Advisory.  Bios to come. |