# Understanding potential GHG reductions in transport

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| Reflecting the Government’s broader climate change agenda, the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport 2021, released in 2020, has identified climate change as a strategic priority focussed on achieving the primary outcome that ‘Investment decisions will support the rapid transition to a low carbon transport system…’.   Also published in 2020, Waka Kotahi released Toitū Te Taiao our Sustainability Action Plan with a vision for a low carbon, safe and healthy land transport system.  Waka Kotahi manages over $4 billion of land transport funding and co-investment each year on behalf of Government.  One of the critical actions in Toitū Te Taiao is recalibrating our investment settings to ensure funding of programmes, projects and activities enables long-term sustainable outcomes, including the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from the land transport system.  In order to deliver on these expectations and specifically to inform investment decision making, Waka Kotahi has developed a ‘proof of concept’ tool to qualitatively assess the greenhouse gas emission reduction profile of land transport investment programmes.  The tool focuses on emissions associated with the use of the land transport system (as opposed to emissions linked to infrastructure construction or maintenance activities) and assesses the emission reduction potential (positive, neutral or negative) of activities included in land transport investment programmes.  The assessment is based on activity type (eg. public transport, walking and cycling, demand management) and conditions influencing the effectiveness of activities (eg. population density and land use).  A matrix is applied so that activities and influencing factors are combined in order to establish the scale of potential impact.This paper will describe the collaborative process used to develop the tool, explore its benefits and limitations, provide examples of early application and insights as well as outlining the proposed next steps to integrate the use of the tool into the broader land transport programme investment decision making system administered by Waka Kotahi. |