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Released by: Kerry Arnold

VTNZ to close a number of its brake testing offsites

The following information from VTNZ is to inform you that they propose closing a number of their brake testing offsite operations.

We asked them to follow up in writing so that Transporting New Zealand was in a position to provide details, plus a formal explanation to the membership. Members can be assured the decision to close some brake testing offsites was not taken lightly. The discussions with VTNZ illustrated the ability to continue with offsites was influenced by many factors, some of which are touched upon in the explanation that follows.

As an important industry stakeholder, we wanted to inform you about the extensive review we have conducted around our national Offsite and Brake Truck sites.

As you will be aware our industry is facing an acute shortage of skilled staff. This shortage was happening before COVID hit our shores and has been exasperated by New Zealand's international border lockdown.

In addition, due to the increased focus on compliance some of our rural sites have increasingly fallen short of the now necessary equipment and property standards. Due to the costs that would be incurred through the upgrading of the pits, the jacks and the inspection areas, improved lighting and new brake machines we are fiscally unable to upgrade and maintain these sites to the required standard.

Due to the ongoing staff shortages and the investment that would be required to upgrade several sites VTNZ had to make the hard decision to stop offering vehicle inspections from a number of properties.

In the coming weeks we will be in contact with effected customers to let them know when our final visits to certain sites will be. In addition, we will also be communicating with them to let them know of their nearest inspections site to the previous one. Some of these sites will be current VTNZ branches and offsites whilst other locations may be new sites that we are able

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to offer inspections from. The first closures will be our Taihape and Raetihi offsites who will be able to use our McCarthy Transport site in Karioi for inspection services.

We know that the closure of any site isn't ideal. However, as it has always been, our priority remains providing New Zealand with a sustainable and safe vehicle inspection service.

We are sorry for the inconvenience these changes may have on you and your members. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me either via email on gavin.mcnaught@vtnz.co.nz or via phone on 027 574 4454.

We look forward to continuing our partnership and keeping you and your members safe on our roads.

Kind regards

Gavin McNaught

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