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Julia McLean
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Support for the Formal Recognition of Horse Riders as Vulnerable Road Users

Dear Julia,

On behalf of New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing (NZTR), I am writing to express our full support for the recommendation that horse riders be formally recognised as Vulnerable Road Users in New Zealand's transport legislation. We believe this recognition is vital for enhancing the safety and well-being of the equestrian community across New Zealand.

Horse riding is not only a popular recreational activity but also a significant aspect of our country's cultural heritage and rural lifestyle. As an organisation dedicated to promoting the sport and ensuring the safety of all involved, we understand the unique challenges horse riders face when sharing roads with motor vehicles. Recognising horse riders as Vulnerable Road Users would bring numerous benefits to the equestrian community, including:

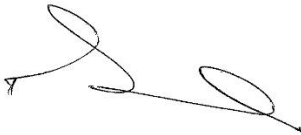
- **Enhanced Safety Measures:** Formal recognition would likely lead to the implementation of specific safety measures designed to protect horse riders. These could include lower speed limits in areas frequented by riders, improved signage to alert drivers to the presence of horses, and designated horse crossings. These measures would significantly reduce the risk of accidents and injuries.
- **Increased Awareness and Education:** By recognising horse riders as Vulnerable Road Users, there would be greater emphasis on educating drivers about how to safely share the road with horses. Awareness campaigns and inclusion in driver education programs would foster a more considerate and informed driving culture, ultimately benefiting both riders and drivers.

- **Legal Protections:** Formal recognition would provide horse riders with legal protections like those afforded to cyclists and pedestrians. This would ensure that in the event of an accident, horse riders receive appropriate consideration and support, reinforcing their right to safe passage on public roads.
- **Encouragement of Equestrian Activities:** The enhanced safety and legal protections would encourage more people to engage in equestrian activities. This would have positive economic implications, supporting rural communities and businesses associated with the equine industry.

NZTR firmly believes that the formal recognition of horse riders as Vulnerable Road Users is a crucial step toward ensuring their safety and promoting the equestrian way of life. We urge the government and relevant authorities to consider this recommendation seriously and to take the necessary actions to implement it.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. NZTR stands ready to collaborate with the New Zealand Equestrian Advocacy Network and other stakeholders to support any initiatives that enhance the safety and well-being of our equestrian community.

Yours sincerely,



Bruce Sharrock
Chief Executive
New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing