

Kia ora Julia and other members of the Canterbury Equestrian Advocacy Group,

Thank you so much for reaching out and letting us know about your petition and sincere apologies for the delayed reply. I agree that horse riders deserve to be protected from high-speed vehicles on the road.

Addressing road safety and transport emissions can provide greater opportunities for more transport choices for New Zealanders, including those who ride horses as a form of transport. Slow speeds and low-traffic neighbourhoods, which the greens support through our climate-safe communities' policy, will make our streets much safer for all road users – including children, pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders.

I previously supported a bill and later a rule change that would have implemented a minimum passing distance that would have applied to equestrians. However, the previous Labour government did not progress those changes. It's great that that you have started another petition and that you are supporting your community to create the change we need to make roads a safe space for everyone.

I support your efforts!

We also just launched a petition that may be of interest to you and your associates – we are calling on the Prime Minister to halt the proposed blanket speed limit increases that will force communities to raise speed limits even where it is unsafe, both on rural roads and around schools and residential neighbourhoods. I encourage you to sign and share as well, as this will also negatively impact equestrians. You can find it here: https://action.greens.org.nz/safer_speeds_petition

Ngā mihi,

Julie Anne Genter

Green Party MP for Rongotai

Spokesperson for Transport, Infrastructure, Urban Development, Building and Construction,
Economic Development and State Owned Enterprises