

Disabled Persons Assembly NZ



1st July 2020

Re: Open letter for disability justice in climate action

Tēnā koe Hon Julie Anne Genter,

Recently DPA, along with other disability organisations, submitted on the Accessible Streets package. In our submission we outlined our significant concerns with a number of the proposed rule changes which will have a negative impact on disabled people's ability to use footpaths safely.

Further to this, we would like to now draw your attention to our open letter (attached and online [here](#)) that has been recently signed by a range of leading climate and justice organisations, including 350 Aotearoa, Oxfam, Greenpeace, OraTaiao: NZ Climate & Health Council, and others supporting our call for all infrastructure projects, including green infrastructure and transport, to be fully accessible and uphold the rights of disabled people.

In particular, we would like you to note that the letter specifically asks that government respects its commitments under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities when considering infrastructure development, 'Shovel Ready Projects', and the Accessible Streets Package.

As you will well know, changes to infrastructure are an essential part of climate change action. We also know that disabled people, along with other marginalised groups, are disproportionately affected by climate change. For these reasons, it is essential that all transport infrastructure is developed to be accessible and with full consideration of the rights of disabled people as per the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities.

DPA asks that you, as Associate Minister for Transport, support and give effect to these principles by ensuring that disabled people and their organisations are fully included from the outset in the development of any transport related infrastructure or projects you are initiating or leading.

It is our view that had this been done with the Accessible Streets Proposals, it would have ensured the development of a more inclusive and genuinely accessible package from the start, rather than the current proposals, a number of which are neither appropriate or inclusive of disabled people.

Ngā mihi nui,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Prudence Walker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Prudence Walker

Chief Executive

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