



News Release - 27 July 2009

## **Electronic Truck Monitoring 'Essential' For Transport Efficiency Says Pacifica**

Electronic monitoring of heavy vehicle movements between main centres is an essential step to achieving freight transport efficiency in New Zealand, says the CEO of Pacifica Shipping, Rod Grout.

Mr Grout says monitoring road freight by routes and distances would provide vital information for formulating national and regional transport policies – data that is currently lacking.

"Despite the results of the national freight demands study conducted recently, we still have no idea where freight is being carried to or from, or over what distance, by trucks on routes between main centres," he said.

"Without this data it is next to impossible for central or regional government planners to make decisions on utilising more energy efficient and environmentally sound modes of transport."

Mr Grout said the advent of heavier trucks on designated routes will make it even more important to establish a knowledge basis for managing freight flows into and out of regions by road, rail or coastal ship.

"Local authorities cannot assess the merits of each mode and determine their effects on communities of disruption, congestion, infrastructure costs and environmental impacts without reliable data.

"These are crucial requirements if we want to be serious about running an efficient transport network in this country, something I do not believe is the case at present."

He said data gathered by electronic monitoring would also provide roading authorities with a better understanding of the wear and tear caused by heavier vehicles on designated routes.

"Little is known about how much additional damage will be caused to roads and bridges by 50-tonne rigs, or what the extra maintenance and strengthening costs will be.

"Electronic monitoring should provide answers and give authorities the ability to set road user charges at appropriate levels to pay for increased costs.

"Until this information is available on an industry-wide level and acted upon, we will not achieve the degree of transport efficiency we need to be competitive in the global economy.

"Certainly we should not be introducing heavier trucks without collecting and evaluating all the relevant data we can expect from electronic monitoring," he said.