

5 February 2008

Teanau Tuiono
Spokesperson
Te Ata Tino Toa
Email: maoriflag@gmail.com

Dear Teanau Tuiono

Request for Support (Transit NZ and the Maori flag)

Thank you for your email of 20 December 2007, seeking support from the Board of Transit New Zealand, to allow the Maori flag to fly on the Auckland Harbour Bridge on Waitangi Day 2008.

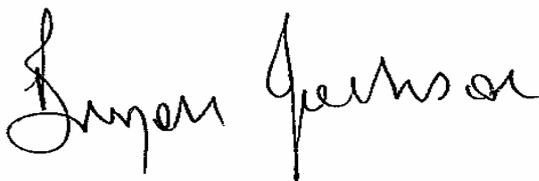
On 29 May 2007, the Transit Board announced a change to its policy for flying flags on the Auckland Harbour Bridge. This policy, which came into effect on 1 June 2007, states that:

“The New Zealand flag will be the sole flag flown on the Auckland Harbour Bridge. It will be flown on both flagpoles and will fly at half-mast on occasions of national mourning as directed by the Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage”.

The Auckland Harbour Bridge is a national icon and I can understand why many groups would like to see their flag flying from the bridge. The primary focus of Transit staff, however, is to ensure the safe and efficient operation of the state highway network. Transit's Board simplified the flag policy because we felt that it was inappropriate for Transit to be making decisions that are not directly related to its core business.

We as a Board remain committed to this policy. Therefore, we are unable to agree to your request. I trust that this letter clarifies why we have adopted this policy.

Yours sincerely



Bryan Jackson
Acting Chair
Transit New Zealand