

## **KiwiRail expected to announce fate of electric locomotives on September 19**

The union representing working people at KiwiRail is urging the state-owned enterprise to reject ~~the~~ ~~dirty~~ diesel and re-invest in its electric locomotive fleet on the North Island Main Trunk line.

~~We~~ ~~are~~ expecting KiwiRail to announce the fate of its electric locomotives on September 19, ~~+~~ said Rail and Maritime Transport Union (RMTU) General Secretary Wayne Butson.

~~We~~ ~~are~~ urging KiwiRail CEO Peter Reidy to listen to train drivers and the thousands of New Zealanders who are getting behind the campaign to re-invest in an electric fleet. KiwiRail should ~~not~~ be considering a downgrade to dirty diesel at the same time the rest of the world is transitioning to clean energy. ~~+~~

~~U~~ ~~sing~~ the existing electric fleet on parts of the North Island Main Trunk line means KiwiRail saves close to eight million litres of diesel each year. That ~~s~~ ~~g~~ood for our environment. ~~+~~

~~O~~ ~~ur~~ drivers are clear about two things: we need clean energy and decent work. That means re-investing in electric locomotives on the North Island Main Trunk line. Diesel-powered locomotives are the past, not the future, ~~+~~ said Butson.

**For further comment and information contact RMTU General Secretary Wayne Butson: 027 496 2461**

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