

Let's Carpool is here!

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Let's Carpool, a new and easy way to carpool in the greater Wellington region, is open for business.

A key feature of the programme is the website, which individuals and workplaces can access for free, that does all the hard work of searching for potential carpooling partners for you.

Ping Sim, programme coordinator and Greater Wellington's sustainable transport planner, says carpooling has never been easier in Wellington. "If you've ever thought about giving carpooling a go, now is the time. All you have to do is register, enter a few details about where you'd like to start and end your carpooling trip, and all the searching will be done for you. You'll then receive emails that will put you in touch with people who live and work near you."

She says the website is secure and no carpoolers' addresses will be publicly available. People can choose if they want to travel with smokers or non-smokers, only people from their workplace, people of the same gender, and if they want to drive or be driven.

Fran Wilde, Chair of Greater Wellington, said Let's Carpool was a fantastic alternative for solo drivers whose commute to and from work could not be done easily by public transport. "Sharing the journey can save you a substantial amount of money, lightens your carbon footprint and enables you to get to know people who live and work near you. It could be a lot of fun."

As well as the website, Let's Carpool encourages workplaces to offer special incentives, such as priority and free carparking, to staff who choose to carpool and to host social events such as morning or afternoon tea where potential carpoolers can get to meet each other.

For the first six months of the programme, Greater Wellington is subsidising a 'guaranteed emergency ride home' for carpoolers. Ping Sim says a guaranteed ride home gives peace of mind to people who would like to carpool but fear they would be stranded in the case of an emergency. "Research both here and overseas shows that carpooling schemes that offer an emergency ride home are more successful. So we will underwrite this expense, for six months, for those workplaces who are keen to offer this but want to get some idea of how much it is likely to cost."

People who register for Let's Carpool go into a weekly draw to win vouchers from Dymocks, Reading cinemas and New World and Pak 'n Save supermarkets.

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For more information, please contact:

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