



Moving with Purpose:

Rethinking Rail at Coca-Cola
Europacific Partners New Zealand

Coca-Cola Europacific Partners New Zealand (CCEP NZ) has been manufacturing in New Zealand for more than 80 years and is part of one of the world's leading consumer goods companies.

CCEP dared to challenge the way it has always moved product and found a practical, high-impact solution with benefits reaching far beyond freight. This case study shows how the business is using rail to unlock faster, smarter and lower-emissions distribution - while demonstrating the kind of bold, behind-the-scenes action needed to build a more sustainable future for Aotearoa New Zealand.

Key to unlocking the benefits is the rail siding extension at CCEP's Mt Wellington Manufacturing and Distribution Centre in Auckland, delivered with KiwiRail, that shows how a practical sustainability initiative can also improve speed, resilience and operational efficiency.

BENEFITS OF RAIL TO CCEP NZ

Our investment in rail is more than a transport decision; it is a strategic move that shows what is possible when sustainability is treated as a business lever, not a trade-off.

By investing in rail capability and encouraging teams to rethink long-standing assumptions, CCEP NZ has unlocked a solution once considered too difficult or too costly.

Delivered in partnership with KiwiRail, the enhanced railside project doubled on-site rail loading capacity, enabling larger volumes to move by train with greater efficiency and reliability. This infrastructure investment is now creating efficiencies across service, cost, resilience and emissions.



Improved service performance and cost stability

The impact on service has been immediate and tangible. CCEP NZ now sends six intermodal containers a day from Auckland to Christchurch, cutting transit time to just three days compared with up to 10 days by ship.

Just as importantly, this has been achieved on a cost-neutral basis helping overturn the perception that rail is slower, less practical or more expensive.

For the business, that means better service for customers and a stronger evidence base for future low-emissions decisions.

Network optimisation and productivity gains

The project is also improving how the wider network performs. By railing product back from Christchurch to Palmerston North, CCEP NZ has been able to better balance production between Auckland and Christchurch, improving flow across the network and unlocking further operational savings.

Emissions reduction and community benefits

The sustainability case is equally compelling. The expanded rail capability at the Auckland site reduces carbon emissions and removes multiple trucks from Auckland roads helping to ease congestion.

With rail delivering greater fuel efficiency than heavy road freight, the project shows how one operational change can create environmental benefits that extend well beyond the factory gate.





DECARBONISING INITIATIVES BEYOND RAIL

CCEP NZ continues to optimise can line productivity to reduce energy use and support growth without adding unnecessary emissions. In warehousing, improvements in pick-capacity efficiency are reducing time, energy consumption and equipment use, supported by initiatives such as the rollout of electric forklifts across manufacturing sites.

CCEP NZ is also advancing lower-carbon manufacturing in practical ways. At the Christchurch site, the transition from an LPG boiler to an electric system has reduced operational emissions, while the water-recovery programme at the Keri manufacturing site in Auckland demonstrates how the business is working to close the loop on water use and reduce pressure on local supplies. Together, these initiatives show that CCEP NZ's sustainability efforts span energy, water and operations - not just logistics.

This broader commitment is reinforced through regular, quarterly Sustainability Newsletters, which showcase continuous improvement across packaging, climate, water, supply chain and community partnerships, and through the internal Sustainability Academy, which helps employees build their understanding of the challenges and opportunities ahead.

THE VALUE OF SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Sustainable Business Council (SBC) gives CCEP NZ valuable opportunities to be part of collective action - sharing ideas, accelerating innovation and contributing to transport decarbonisation efforts alongside other major New Zealand businesses. Through the SBC network, CCEP NZ can also engage in sector-wide dialogue on climate action and work alongside partners such as KiwiRail and other organisations pursuing similar outcomes, showing how meaningful progress often comes from partnership.