



The Bulletin Kaikoura earthquake update

SIGN UP

To receive weekly updates online here

bit.ly/NCTIRBulletinSignUp



SH1 NORTH



SH1 SOUTH

WE'RE BACK ON THE ROAD

Plan ahead and expect delays

After the road re-opened on 15 December, most crews stood down for a well-deserved break, helping traffic flows during the busy Christmas-New Year period. By Monday (15 January), the work programme will be back in full operation and this will have a significant effect on the coastal corridor.

'It's a balancing act to schedule work to have a minimal effect on travel time while also ensuring the work gets done,' says Transport Agency Journey Manager Tresca Forrester, 'Drivers should expect to take at least 5 ½ to 6 hours to drive between Picton and Christchurch on SH1, but should allow plenty of extra time in case of delays.'

The two most earthquake-damaged sections will continue to be closed at night (8.30pm to 7am) as a safety precaution. These are north of Kaikoura, between Clarence and Mangamaunu, and south of Kaikoura, between Goose Bay and Peketa. There will also be multiple worksites in these sections during the day operated by Stop/Go controls. Drivers should take extra care, drive to the conditions and adhere to all speed limits.

As experienced over the past fortnight, the opening hours are subject to change due to adverse weather. 'If there is a lot of rain or another significant event, we may have to close the road again for short periods of time for safety reasons,' says Tresca.

The alternate Picton to Christchurch route (via Lewis Pass) remains a reliable 24/7 option for travel between Picton and Christchurch. However, roadworks on this route – and on the Inland Road (Route 70) to Kaikoura – will also ramp up again from mid-January as the warmer, dry weather enables the extensive summer maintenance and improvement programme of work to be completed. 'Although road works can be inconvenient, drivers will have a better, safer journey once the work is done,' says Tresca.

Whichever route you take, the Transport Agency advises drivers to allow plenty of time for their trip, especially if catching a ferry or on a tight schedule, and to take regular breaks and share the driving if possible. Police will be working along both corridors to help road users stay safe.



For real-time travel information and details on SH1 and the alternate route go to www.nzta.govt.nz/p2c or call **0800 4 HIGHWAYS (0800 44 44 49)**. The Transport Agency recommends drivers check information at least two hours before travel and at key route decision points. Electronic signs displaying real-time information will also be positioned at important locations.



THE LOGIC OF A ROAD CLOSURE

Safety of road users is paramount in our decision making about closing the road north and south of Kaikoura. This coastal route has always been vulnerable to high seas and weather conditions, and continues to be so as we reconstruct the road. Since the road opened on 15 December we have had four closures.

The weather has been a key reason for these closures. The MetService forecast stormy weather for 5 to 6 January so in the calm before the storm our teams met to plan ahead.

Once the storm hit, everyone reconvened early on 5 January. The decision was made to keep the road closed from the evening before as there was flooding on the road north of Kaikoura and the single-lane section, which retains slip 9 north of Kaikoura, at Waipapa Bay, had become unstable behind the block protection wall. South of Kaikoura rock and debris had fallen on the road and rail making it unsafe for public use.

Our team monitored the situation regularly over the day while following the weather report closely. 'After the 5.30am daily road inspection we realised that the predicted strong winds and rain had had an impact on the road and we had to keep it closed for safety reasons,' says Transport Agency Journey Manager Tresca Forrester.

Gathering at 6am, on 6 January further road assessments were made. Our teams started cleaning up windblown signs, bollards, road cones and trees from the Hundalees through to Ward and the road was reopened by 7am. 'We were relieved to have the road reopened as we want everyone to get to where they need to go and stay connected,' says Tresca.

But, by 2.30pm a truck got stuck north of Kaikoura near Waipapa Bay. A road closure followed as work got underway to remove the truck. The road reopened at 4.45pm and traffic started flowing again.

On 8 January, the road was closed as large overnight sea swells pushed seawall blocks onto the road near Ohau Point. The road was assessed at 7am and then again at 11am. Once the high tide had passed the blocks were slotted back into place with reinforcements and the road reopened at 12.18pm. We again briefly closed the road on Friday, 12 January in the morning due to the weather.

Managing the road during such events means planning ahead and working with key partners such as the NZ Police. Thank you to everyone involved in the process and clean ups, and to the public for their patience as we make sure the road is safe to use.



Our live action cameras show the height and force of the sea.

For up-to-date information on SH1 road open/closures call **0800 44 44 49** or visit nzta.govt.nz/p2c



Our teams replacing the seawall once the sea swells and the high tide had dissipated.



RECONNECTED COMMUNITIES



Leo Kapp collects his daily dose of sushi from local sushi maker Kim Zen.

Road opening boosts local businesses

Last summer in Kaikoura it was eerily quiet following the November 2016 earthquake. Now, with State Highway 1 re-opened, the town is bustling. At the top of the Esplanade in Kaikoura, Kim Zen prepares fresh sushi every day of the week. 'I am usually pretty busy, but this summer has been incredible,' says Kim, as customers flow in to choose from the bento boxes and assorted rolls that are on display.

'I've been here seven years running this business,' says Kim, from behind the counter where she continues to work, 'And there are lots of tourists since the road has re-opened. People are on their way to the beach or exploring, visiting shops in town. It's been very good for business.'

Another customer enters and Kim jokes with him that he comes in for sushi every day. He laughs and lifts his salmon avocado roll in the air, 'Of course I come in every day, the best sushi in the world is here!'



TRADITIONS RETURN

The Laugesen family traditionally drive north on State Highway 1 from Kaikoura during the Christmas week to pick cherries at Cherrylands in Blenheim. Last year was one of few times in 20 years that Symonde and her family couldn't do this. This year with SH1 re-opening, she was thrilled to be able to rekindle their tradition and begin to have normality return to their lives. Two of their seven children went along for the journey to experience the new coastline and the new road. While driving over the Irongate Bridge, Symonde had a few facts and figures thrown at her via Google 'Mum, it's the fastest built seven span bridge in New Zealand,' her 19-year-old daughter explained from the backseat.

Symonde was shocked to see the change and in some parts couldn't look; it made it real for her and she now feels 'reconnected'.



Symonde Laugesen selling her homemade bread at the Kaikoura Farmer's Market.



WAIAU FERRY BLUFFS

After 17,500 work hours, the project stabilising the Waiiau Ferry Bluffs, near Hanmer Springs with anchored mesh and installing a gabion retaining wall and guard rail was completed just before Christmas. Well done to the teams who worked on the project for six months and thanks to the local community and visitors for their patience during this time!



What it took

5000m² of mesh

320 anchors

1.3km of drilling

200 tons of gabion stone

500m steel used

30m² of concrete

12 litres of coffee

3 kettles

50+ people

A very patient public



INLAND ROAD (ROUTE 70) WORK UNDERWAY

The Inland Route between Culverden and Kaikoura has been improved and repaired during the past year. Because of the increased traffic using the road in 2016, combined with a wet and snowy winter, crews will be back from next week working on the road again. This means there will be some delays along the route, but ultimately it will mean a safer, smoother ride at the end of the summer season. Contact southernlink@downer.co.nz for more information or with any queries.



KEEP UP-TO-DATE
 Subscribe to our weekly bulletin by emailing info@nctir.com, with 'Bulletin' in the subject line

- South Island www.facebook.com/nztasouthisland/
- KiwiRail www.facebook.com/kiwirailNewZealand/

CONTACT US
 Call our Freephone: 0800 NCTIR EQ (0800 628 4737)
 Email us: info@nctir.com