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# Safer Rides, Southern Coromandel - Questions and answers

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## **What is *Safer Rides* about?**

Safer Rides is a multi-agency project aimed at improving motorcycle safety along a scenic loop in the Southern Coromandel, popular with recreational motorcyclists. The project is trialling and monitoring a series of safety improvements aimed at reducing the number and severity of motorcycle crashes on the route. Successful initiatives can be shared to help improve safety for motorcyclists throughout the country.

## **Why this stretch of highway?**

The 130km stretch of state highway has been chosen for the pilot because it has experienced a disproportionately high number of fatal and serious motorcycle crashes in recent years.

Motorcycles make up just two percent of the vehicles that travel along the Southern Coromandel Loop, yet motorcycles were involved in 42% of all fatal and serious injury crashes. In the last five years (2009-2013) there have been 43 fatal and serious crashes on the loop, 18 of those involved motorcyclists resulting in 3 fatalities and 16 riders being seriously injured.

It is the first time a project of this type, especially for motorcyclists has been applied to New Zealand roads.

# Where is the route?

The pilot route is approximately 130 km long and incorporates four state highways. SH26 (Paeroa to Kopu 26 km), SH25A (Kopu to near Hikuai 28km), SH25 (near Hikuai to Waihi 52 km) and SH2 (Waihi to Paeroa 20 km).



## What are the safety improvements?

Improvements to the roads and roadsides will improve motorcycle safety in three areas:

1. They will help to keep the rider on their bike with different road markings, increased edgelines, upgraded signage at some deceptive corners, improved surface condition, as well as work to improve visibility.
2. By creating a more forgiving environment by removing or modifying various roadside hazards, that will help reduce the severity of potential injuries if riders do crash.
3. By getting injured riders access to medical treatment more quickly via four new rescue helicopter landing pads areas.

Billboards with safety tips have been placed along the route, as mistakes are often a factor contributing to fatal or serious crashes.

## What are the results?

The project is still in the implementation phase and independent evaluation and analysis of the measures, as well as any effect on crash statistics, have not yet been undertaken.

## How can motorcyclists give feedback?

Riders are encouraged to find out more and to give feedback via [www.nzta.govt.nz/safer-rides-sc](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/safer-rides-sc) [This NZ Transport Agency link is repeated on www.rideforever.co.nz](http://www.rideforever.co.nz) and [other partner websites](#).

## Who are the organisations involved in Safer Rides, Southern Coromandel?

The NZ Transport Agency, Motorcycle Safety Advisory Council, NZ Police and the Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC), Thames-Coromandel and Hauraki District Councils, Waikato Regional Council and motorcycling user groups

## Where does the project fit in the Government's wider Road Safety Strategy?

Improving motorcycle safety is one of the top five priorities in Safer Journeys, New Zealand's Road Safety Strategy 2010-2020. This strategy adopts the safe system approach and recognises that people make mistakes on our roads, and that the human body has a limited ability to withstand crash forces.

Given that mistakes are inevitable, the road system should protect people from death and serious injury by focusing on four key elements - safer roads and roadsides; safer speeds; safer vehicles and safer road use.