



The Bulletin Kaikoura earthquake update

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SH1 NORTH



SH1 SOUTH

TRAFFIC FLOWING WELL ON SH1

A week since State Highway 1 fully reopened along the Picton to Christchurch route, the road has been busy with a number of vehicles using it, including motorcyclists, cars, trucks, vehicles towing caravans and trailers, and cyclists.

The majority of feedback has been positive.

'We are pleased with how the road is operating and that people are having a positive experience using it,' says NZ Transport Agency Journey Manager, Tresca Forrester.

The journey between Picton and Christchurch is taking on average five and a half hours, with the highway closed both north and south of Kaikoura between 8.30pm and 7am (refer to map on page 4). The Inland Road (Route 70) through Waiau provides open 24/7 between Kaikoura and Christchurch.

The alternate route through Lewis Pass remains open 24/7 between Picton and Christchurch with an expected minimum travel time of six and a half hours.

'Our main message to road users over the coming weeks is no matter what route you choose to take please drive to conditions and take into account the weather, speed restrictions, the road you're on, the vehicles you're in, the traffic around you and your level of experience,' says Tresca.

Last weekend, freight trains and road traffic passed each other along the reopened route for the first time in one year, one month and one day.

'While this was an exciting moment, it is also an opportunity to remind people to stay clear of railway tracks and to expect trains at any times,' says Tresca.

NCTIR will start working again both south and north of Kaikoura on SH1 from 8 January 2018 and this may increase expected journey times. The best way to stay up-to-date with what is happening is to check www.nzta.govt.nz/p2c or call **0800 4 HIGHWAYS (0800 44 44 49)** at least two hours before you travel.

Need to know

- There are **two reliable routes** to travel between Picton and Christchurch – along SH1 or through the alternate route via Lewis Pass.
- Allow a **minimum of 5.5 hours** to travel SH1 from Picton to Christchurch –extra time if you are catching a ferry.
- There is **no stopping** between the closure points, except in marked safe stopping areas.
- SH1 is **still a construction site** and there are a number of speed limits at specific areas so please pay attention.
- **Follow all speed restrictions** – Police are monitoring the route.
- The expected journey time for SH1 is expected to increase after **8 January 2018** when work resumes along the route and the number of stop-go controls increase.



Mayor of Kaikoura Winston Gray and Minister of Transport Phil Twyford cut the ribbon to officially open SH1 at 6.11am



The first traffic to use the road heading south from Clarence



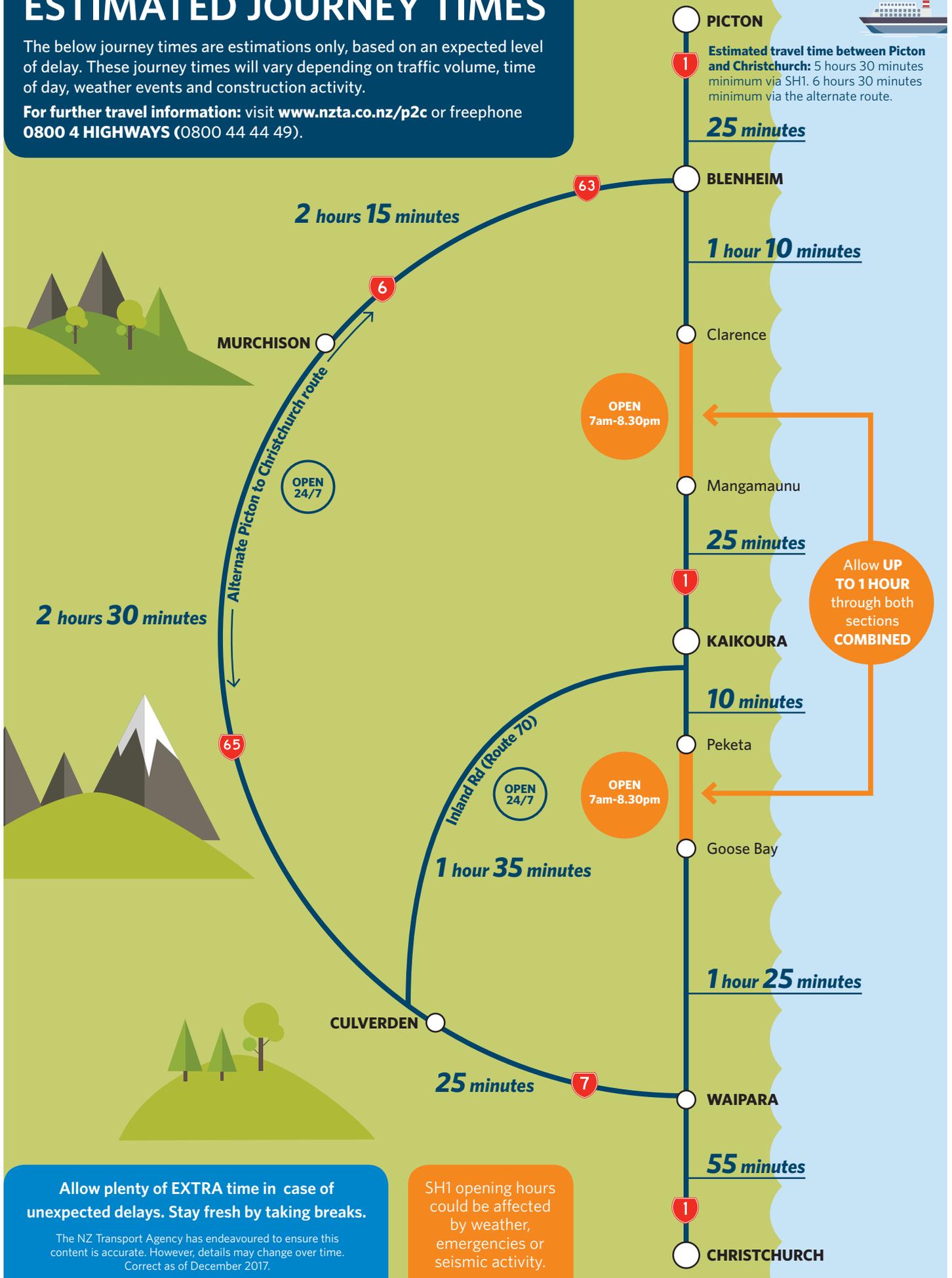
Road opened 15 December 2017

*Thank you
for your support*

ESTIMATED JOURNEY TIMES

The below journey times are estimations only, based on an expected level of delay. These journey times will vary depending on traffic volume, time of day, weather events and construction activity.

For further travel information: visit www.nzta.co.nz/p2c or freephone 0800 4 HIGHWAYS (0800 44 44 49).



Allow plenty of EXTRA time in case of unexpected delays. Stay fresh by taking breaks.

The NZ Transport Agency has endeavoured to ensure this content is accurate. However, details may change over time. Correct as of December 2017.

SH1 opening hours could be affected by weather, emergencies or seismic activity.



ELECTRIFYING RIDE

Cyclists Fiona Christeller and Nigel Oxley have had an electrifying ride from Wellington to Christchurch along the reopened State Highway 1.

Travelling on their electric bikes from Wellington, the cyclists rode through the earthquake-damaged sections of coastline this week and were impressed with the work undertaken to repair the road and rail.

Fiona says it was interesting to see the work close up.

'It's really good. Travelling down the route was marvellous; everyone was friendly and it's amazing to be at the bottom of those cliffs and seeing that road being rebuilt.'

Members of the NCTIR team are stationed along the route at the open/closure points at Clarence and Mangamanu, and Peketa and Goose Bay, as well as at any stop/go areas. This provides cyclists an opportunity to check in with crew at the checkpoints to get the updates on the road.

On average, Fiona and Nigel get 80km each day from their bike batteries and are taking a week to travel between Wellington and Christchurch. They had to plan ahead to make sure they could access charge points at accommodation along the route, and recommend others do as well.

Fiona and Nigel also recommend a stop at the Kaikoura Museum to see the The Kaikoura Earthquake Exhibition 'New Normal', which examines the impacts of the earthquake on the community, landscape and natural environment including 30 'mini exhibitions' by the Kaikoura community.



Thinking of cycling between Picton and Christchurch along SH1?

Here's what you need to do:

- Follow the crew instruction on the day
- If you need assistance or would like to be escorted between Clarence and Mangamaunu and Peketa and Goose Bay please let our crews know at the checkpoints.
- Stay at least four metres away from train tracks and expect trains at any time.
- Be courteous and patient while sharing the road.

These are areas of significant ongoing construction where you should expect:

- Sharing the road with large construction vehicles
- Unsealed sections and loose gravel
- Single lanes with speed restrictions
- Signposted NO stopping areas (for safety)
- Signposted stopping areas - the ONLY places to safely pull over for a break

Please obey all instructions, signage and only travel in the designated areas.

Who can use SH1

 Cars (including vans, 4wd, 2wd cars)	 Motorcyclists (take extra care on unsealed and uneven surfaces)	 Vehicles towing caravans, boats and trailers	 Campervans
 Trucks (restrictions apply)	 Bus/coach	 Cyclists (take extra care on unsealed and uneven surfaces.) Cyclists may need assistance or be escorted in some areas. Stop at closure points and follow road crew instructions on the day.	 Pedestrians
			 NO CAMPING (within closure areas)



RECONNECTING THE RURAL SECTOR

Farming communities have been reconnected with essential transport services along SH1 north of Kaikoura, following 12 months of relative isolation.

The Milltons, whose family farm at the Clarence River Bridge north of Kaikoura and were cut off from Kaikoura, are pleased the road has reopened.

'It has been terribly difficult to sell and transport our livestock,' they say.

As well as planning difficulties around selling and transporting stock, farmers and rural businesses all over the South Island have had to deal with increased freight costs (up to \$35/tonne increase) when purchasing supplies.

Selling stock and bringing supplies to and from Christchurch or further south has been causing some headaches for the rural community.

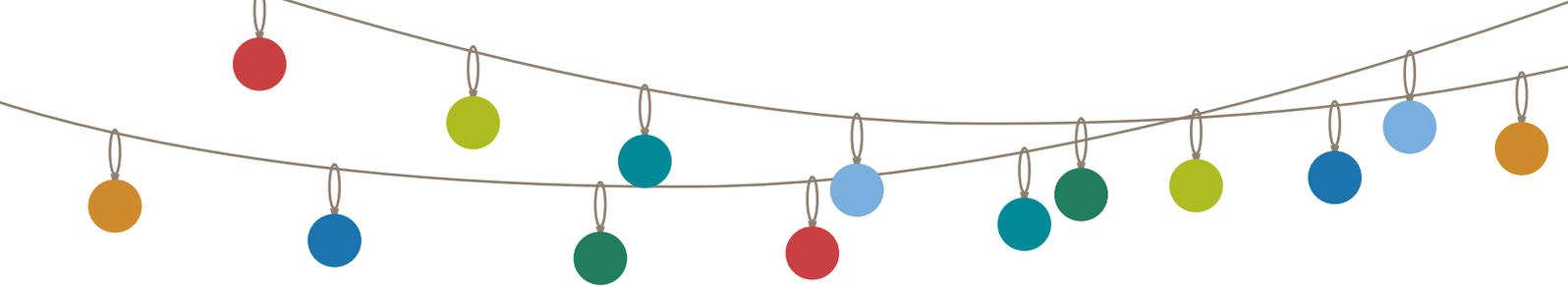
The Milltons are extremely grateful for the help and support received from all over the county.

'We all look forward to being able to get back to business as usual but we know we will need to plan carefully as there are still going to be planned closures and it might get difficult to go through some sites with a truck and trailer when the road works begin again after the holidays.'

The number of worksites on SH1 is reduced between 15 December 2017 and 7 January 2018 but an army of orange road workers will be back on site from 8 January 2018.

In spite of the joy of seeing their farming community reconnected to Kaikoura and the rest of New Zealand via SH1, the Milltons will miss the peace that came with living at the end of the 'biggest cul-de-sac in the country'.





MERRY CHRISTMAS

Contacting us

Please note the info@nctir.com email will not be closely monitored from 22 December – 08 January. If you would like information about SH1, the alternate route via Lewis Pass, or if you are travelling through the upper South Island please visit www.nzta.govt.nz/p2c, or freephone **0800 4 HIGHWAYS** (0800 44 44 49).

Highway helpers

Along SH1 from Christchurch through to Picton are our friendly Highway Helpers easily recognised with their bright yellow caps and orange labelled high-vis. These helpers can be found on the Cook Strait ferries, in Kaikoura, around Christchurch and along SH1. These Highway Helpers are your go to point for information about travel along SH1 between Picton and Christchurch. Please feel free to have a chat with them about your travelling needs.

Resources available

We have created a number of resources to inform people about travelling in the upper South Island. This is to help people choose the right route for them. You can download electronic copies of these from www.nzta.govt.nz/p2c. You can also watch and share some of our videos telling the story of the rail, marina and road rebuild from NZ Transport Agency YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/user/NZTransportAgency



Thank you for your support and patience over the past year.

From all of us at NCTIR, the NZ Transport Agency and KiwiRail, we wish you a wonderful holiday break. Keep safe on the road!



NCTIR CREWS SHARING CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

With less than a week to go before Christmas, NCTIR workers are feeling festive and have started decorating their worksites.

Suzy Ruddell runs the gate at the Hapuku earthworks stockpile site and has decked the front of her site office out with an arrangement of rocks, stones and paua shells, complete with a Christmas tree in the middle.

The rocks are gifts from visiting truck drivers, and what started as a deterrent to block vehicles from parking in front of the office, has grown into something quite special. A wall made out of rocks stacked in different shapes and sizes now stands proudly in front of the container.

Glittering away in the sunlight, the tinsel adorning the tree almost looks like a series of Christmas lights.

'I picked out the tree from the Kaikoura opshop and had it set up and ready to go before the first lot of trucks turned up the next morning to surprise them.'

Suzy says the tree boosted the spirits of the truck drivers, many of whom are working long hours far away from their homes and families.

'They think it's awesome and love it. A lot of them are away from home but this tree reminds them it's Christmas and they will soon be on holiday with their loved ones.'



OPENING TIMETABLE

SH1 NORTH OF KAIKOURA: MANGAMAUNU TO CLARENCE

Open daily 7am to 8.30pm

Closed overnight for safety - no stopping or overnight camping.

SH1 SOUTH OF KAIKOURA: GOOSE BAY TO PEKETA

Open daily 7am to 8.30pm

Closed overnight for safety - no stopping or overnight camping.

State Highway 1
north of Kaikoura
is now open.



To help keep traffic moving safely, please plan any sightseeing trips for a later date - we expect the road to be very busy!

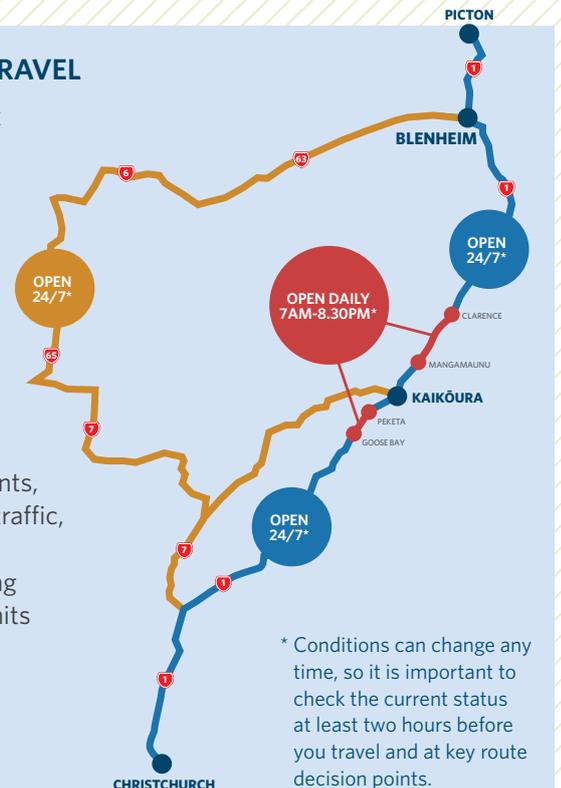
IMPORTANT BEFORE YOU TRAVEL

Check routes are open and get estimated travel times.

For real-time travel information visit www.nzta.govt.nz/p2c or freephone **0800 4 HIGHWAYS** (0800 44 44 49).

Make sure you allow enough time for your journey, whichever route you chose. Unexpected events, such as a crash, high volumes of traffic, ongoing wet weather or seismic activity, can cause delays. Ongoing roadworks and reduced speed limits in places mean that it won't be possible for you to make up time.

Be prepared with food, water and a fully charged cell phone.



* Conditions can change any time, so it is important to check the current status at least two hours before you travel and at key route decision points.

Do not rely on your GPS or Google Maps - things can change at short notice.

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- KiwiRail www.facebook.com/kiwirailNewZealand/

CONTACT US

Call our Freephone: **0800 4 HIGHWAYS** (0800 628 4737)

Email us: info@nctir.com

Please note: this phone and email box will not be monitored regularly from 23 December 2017 to 8 January 2018.