

# FAQS

## WHY BYPASS THE BRYNDERWYNS WHEN YOU HAVE JUST UPGRADED THE NORTHERN SIDE?

The recently completed Brynderwyn Hills project has delivered safety improvements to a section of the State highway that had a high number of fatal and serious casualties. The project has made this stretch of State Highway 1 considerably safer and more reliable, by widening the existing road corridor, removing tight corners towards the top of the hill and installing a wire rope median barrier and side barriers on the northern side.

The Brynderwyn Hills bypass is still at least a decade away, and the existing SH1 over the hills is going to have an increasing level of local, tourist and freight traffic in that time. Even in the future, when the bypass is complete, the existing route over the Brynderwyn Hills will still be used. The views offered by the route, including from the new lookout point over the Bream Bay, Hen and Chicken Islands and the Waipu Plains, will ensure it remains popular for tourists and Northlanders returning home. Having two routes in the future will meet the needs of freight, tourism and local road users with safer, more resilient and more reliable journeys.

## WHAT DOES 'JOURNEY TIME RELIABILITY' MEAN?

Journey time reliability means the time taken to travel a certain route is consistent. Travel times are forecast to improve between Whāngārei and Te Hana, particularly for freight traffic as the road is straightened out and the divided carriageway allows for safe passing of slow vehicles. SH1 was closed 46 times between Whāngārei and Te Hana (mainly due to serious incidents) in 2014-15. Currently some detours are not suitable for heavy vehicles – meaning waits of up to eight hours for these vehicles if there are unplanned events on the State highway. With a divided carriageway, the frequency of road closures will reduce. Improvements to detour routes are also planned in order to accommodate all vehicles.

## HOW WERE THE SHORT LISTED OPTIONS CHOSEN?

During the planning phase a number of options were considered. An assessment of many factors, including engineering, geological, environmental, cultural, and social were taken into consideration to identify the short list of options. The options are preferred because they:

- Meet our project objectives to improve safety and journey time reliability and reduce the cost of travel for freight
- Have less adverse effects on the environment when compared to other options considered
- Improve the network resilience and reduce road closures due to accidents, severe weather and other unplanned events
- Avoids or minimises possible impacts on potential areas of cultural significance
- Can be constructed with less constraints compared to other options

## HOW WILL WHĀNGĀREI TO TE HANA IMPROVE SAFETY ON SH1?

Safety on the State highway will be improved by eliminating sharp bends, providing safe opportunities for passing, and separating northbound and southbound traffic. The proposed options are predicted to save 280 deaths and serious injuries over 30 years. This represents an approximate reduction of 80% deaths and serious injuries from the existing route between Whāngārei and Te Hana (based on current crash records).

## WHAT IF MY PROPERTY IS AFFECTED?

People who own properties that may be required in full or in part will be fully consulted as the project develops. Once we have identified the preferred option the Transport Agency will start contacting property owners. This is likely to be late-2017. If you are concerned that one or more of the short listed options may impact a property you own, we encourage you to make contact with the project team by email [W2TH@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:W2TH@nzta.govt.nz)