
KAIKOURA EARTHQUAKE UPDATE

WEEKLY BULLETIN – no. 12

13 April 2017

This weekly bulletin aims to give you the latest information on the work underway to rebuild and repair the road and rail networks damaged by the Hurunui/Kaikoura earthquakes in November 2016. The bulletin is provided by the North Canterbury Transport Infrastructure Recovery (NCTIR) – an alliance representing the NZ Transport Agency and KiwiRail, on behalf of Government. We're keen to hear from you with any questions about our work, or with any feedback on this bulletin. Drop us a line via email at info@nctir.com or give us a call on **0800 NCTIREQ** (0800 628 4737) – we'd like to hear from you.

BE SAFE THESE HOLIDAYS,

If you're driving through the top of the South Island this Easter or during the school holidays you need to be aware that, with State Highway 1 north of Kaikoura closed, you should expect delays on the alternate route.

Travelling the alternate route (via state highways 7, 65, 6 and 63) between Christchurch and Picton will be busy over Easter, with The Classic Fighters Airshow in Blenheim expected to attract 25,000 people from throughout New Zealand. Travel times on the alternate route are expected to take on average seven and a half hours, so you'll need to allow extra time.

Before you travel, visit: www.nzta.govt.nz/kaikoura-earthquake-response. You can access information on how to plan your route and find the best time to travel to avoid the rush. Bookmark the website so you can check back for real-time travel updates when you're on the road.

Whenever you travel, please be prepared for delays and bad weather: ensure you have food, water and warm clothing or bedding in your vehicle in the event of an incident resulting in delays.

Please be patient, cautious and courteous. Slow down, keep left, share the road and take responsibility for ensuring everyone gets to their destination safely during the holidays.

BE ALERT AT RAIL CROSSINGS

Trains will be back operating on the Main North Line railway along parts of the South Island's east coast from next week and everyone is being asked to take extra care at all level crossings.

These work trains are carrying ballast and other materials to the various work sites along the railway line for the repair and rebuild of the rail corridor.

With no trains on the rail line to the south of Kaikoura since the November 2016 earthquake, some people may have become complacent at level crossings. KiwiRail is asking that everyone stop and check the line before they cross. We need everyone to adopt their usual cautious driving behaviour at level crossings – be alert to stay safe.

WHEN RAIN FALLS, ROCKS FALL AND ROADS CLOSE



SH1 SOUTH OF KAIKOURA

State Highway 1 south of Kaikoura remains fragile. There are over 30 slips along this stretch of the highway as requiring further repair. The road remains subject to on-going closures because of repair work and bad weather. (For the latest travel information:

<http://www.nzta.govt.nz/traffic/regions/11>)

- Work along this section of the highway has again this week been focussed on emergency stabilisation, following the recent heavy rain. We are doing all we can to stabilise these slips before winter and to keep the road open during daylight hours.
- We know these closures are frustrating; our crews will do all they can to keep the roads open and Kaikoura accessible but safety will always be our top priority.
- Our work programme and winter will require ongoing closures.

INLAND ROAD (ROUTE 70)

Inland Road (Route 70) is open and remains a critical link for the Kaikoura community. We continue to complete repair work along the Inland Road to ensure the road will be in the best possible condition before winter.

- Slope stabilisation and rock fall mitigation work is underway at the Whalesback slip where our abseiling teams have completed the removal of loose rock from the slip face and we're now putting 100 bolts into the slip face to help with stabilisation. Two-way traffic will continue to use the temporary carriageway around this site.
- Remediation work is also underway on the Conway Bluffs



SH1 NORTH OF KAIKOURA

Road and rail links north of Kaikoura to Picton on SH 1 and the Main North Line remain closed. Access to the beach and the surrounding areas near our work sites will be restricted to the public at all times while construction work is underway. The focus is on getting the road and rail networks re-opened as quickly as possible.

- There are new slips along this section of the highway following the recent heavy rain.
- This month, we expect our crews working from both the north and south along this section of the highway clearing slips and beginning to rebuild the transport network will have opened up construction tracks around Site 6 (Ohau Point) to allow access along the whole route. This will be a significant milestone. We have a drilling rig taking soil samples to help us better understand the land for repair work to begin.

MAIN NORTH LINE RAILWAY

The Main North Line railway (MNL) between Picton and Christchurch is a critical part of the network for moving freight between the North and South Islands. More than 1 million tonnes of freight is moved on the MNL each year.

Construction trains will this week begin operating between Christchurch port and Ferniehurst; they are already operating between Blenheim and Tar Barrel. These trains will significantly speed up repairs.

Priorities to date have been fixing quake damaged structures that allow the trains to run, such as bridges and embankments. Strengthening work at the Oaro and Parnassus overbridges, has progressed enough to allow the construction trains to pass through.

Another recent milestone is completing earthworks that will allow track to be re-laid. During the November quake, a section of the rail embankment at Hawkeswood failed, causing slumping and tension cracking as the land undulated. To fix this, railway tracks were removed and the embankment excavated to a depth of about 10m. Then backfilled with geogrid reinforced gravel to create a stabilised embankment. Earthworks were completed at the start of April and the tracks are ready for the work trains to top up the ballast and re-align the track. This took just over a month to complete.

Despite recent bad weather, track realignment of the rail track at Oaro is underway and quake-wrecked tracks have been removed. Scaffolding has been erected at the rail bridge (bridge 90), near Ferniehurst and the crew is currently installing the wooden sleepers. The next big task at hand is to backfill the abutments. Once this is complete, the rail tracks will be installed.

ALTERNATE ROUTE (VIA LEWIS PASS)

The alternate route (via Lewis Pass) is continuously being improved through the use of new technology, such as mobile towers to reduce coverage black spots, webcams and radar to monitor what is happening to keep everyone safe, and road improvements to make the route safer and easier to travel on.

- Road widening, extensive resealing and construction of temporary bailey bridges
- Over the next few weeks the focus will be on delineation (line marking, edge marker posts), sign reflectivity, and tree trimming/removal
- Work is due to start on 19 pullover areas to improve passing opportunities (at eight locations along SH7, six locations on SH65, three locations on SH6 and two locations on SH63)
- Six new slow-vehicle bays are being built
- Safety campaigns are underway, in conjunction with the police, to highlight the dangers of driving on the route when tired and during winter conditions. Police retain a strong presence along the route to help manage driver behaviour and speeds.

KAIKOURA HARBOUR

Reinstatement of Kaikoura Harbour is crucial to restoring the economic prosperity of the town's tourism and fishing industries. The marina has been raised by about a metre; work is focussed on deepening the harbour and resetting marina structures to the new depth.

- Work begins after Easter dredging the outer harbour seabed. You can expect to see a tug boat, barges and the floating excavation platform
- Piling within the inner harbour is scheduled to start early May
- Whale Watch and Dolphin Encounter remain operational from the Kaikoura Wharf.
- Work on the he boat ramp is now completed.

KEEP UP-TO-DATE

How to contact us and keep up to date with the NCTIR project:

- Subscribe to receive our weekly bulletin by emailing info@nctir.com, with 'Bulletin' in the subject line.
- Visit our website: www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/kaikoura-earthquake-response/
- Call our Freephone: 0800 NCTIR EQ (0800 628 4737)
- Email us if you have a question: info@nctir.com
- Attending one of the community meetings, keep an eye on your local newspapers.
- Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/nztasouthisland/ or www.facebook.com/kiwirailNewZealand/
- For travel information: <http://www.nzta.govt.nz/traffic/regions/11>

SH1 Kaikōura Coast remedial works

