



# briefing notes - road safety issues

## Mackenzie District

New Zealand Transport Agency has prepared this road safety issues report. It is based on reported crash data and trends for the 2004–2008 period.

The intent of the report is to highlight the key road safety issues and be a resource to identify possible ways to reduce the number of road deaths and injuries in Mackenzie District.

In each new report one year's data is added to a five year block and the oldest dropped so it is unlikely that the core issues would change radically from report to report.

The issues chosen for this report are drawn from either the most common crash types, those that appear over-represented when Mackenzie District is compared to similar local bodies or those with high social cost (high numbers of fatal and serious crashes mainly).

We have included a brief overview of crashes in the district.

We encourage Mackenzie District to delve deeper into the highlighted issues and other road safety issues in the district. Contact the NZTA Christchurch Performance Information team for additional information from the Ministry of Transport's Crash Analysis System (CAS). All data and maps in this note are from CAS.

### Major road safety issues

#### Mackenzie District

Straight Road - Loss of control or Head-on  
Bend - Loss of control or Head-on  
Overseas drivers

### 2008 road trauma

#### Casualties

#### Mackenzie District

Deaths 3  
Serious casualties 5  
Minor casualties 24

#### Nationally

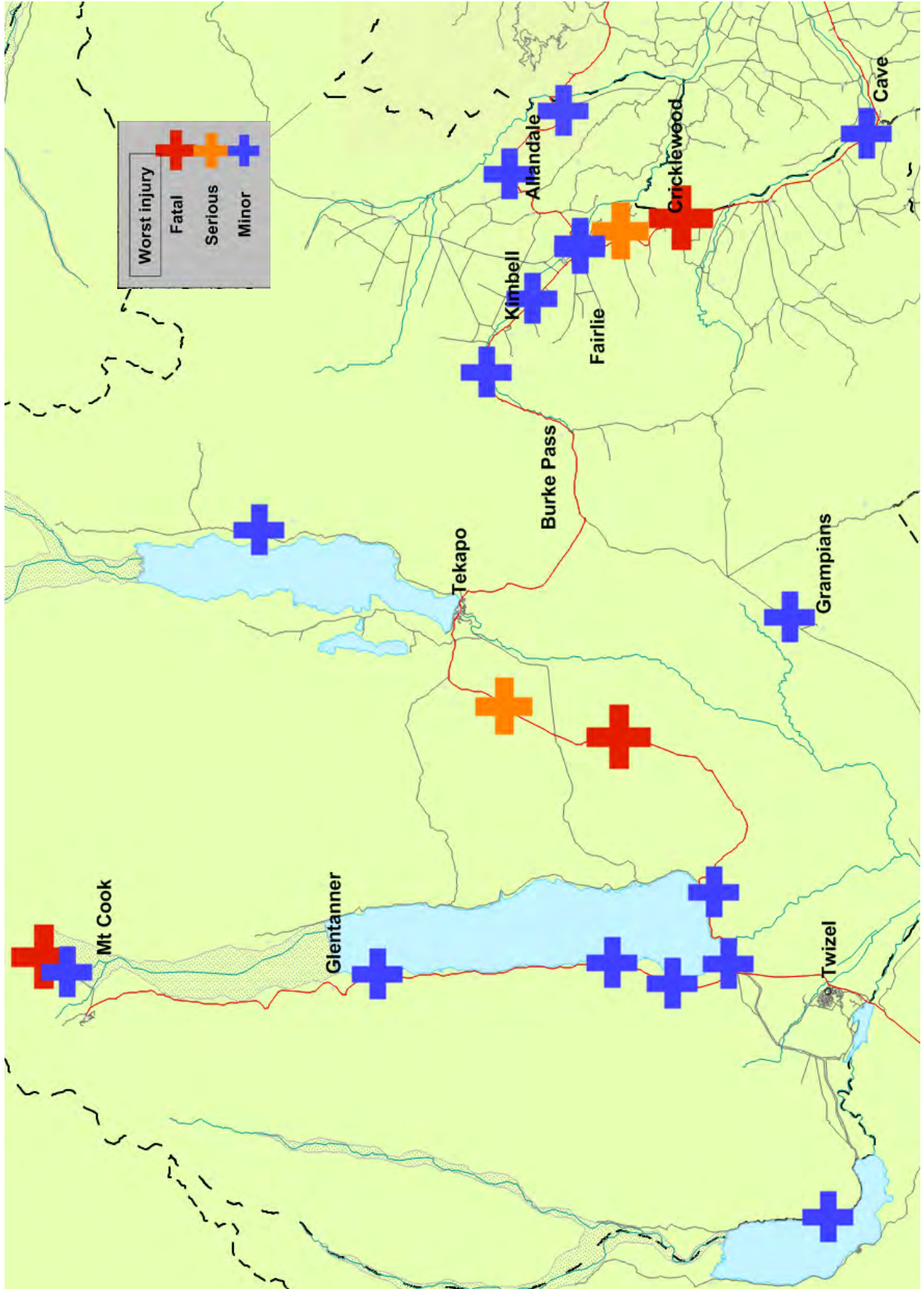
Speed  
Alcohol  
Failure to give way  
Restraints

#### Crashes

#### Mackenzie District

Fatal crashes 3  
Serious injury crashes 3  
Minor injury crashes 16  
Non-injury crashes 36

Fatal and injury crashes  
Mackenzie District  
2008



## Overview

In 2008 on local roads in Mackenzie District there were 6 injury crashes and 8 non-injury crashes. In addition there were 16 injury crashes and 28 non-injury crashes on State Highways both as reported by the New Zealand Police.

The table below shows the number of injuries resulting from the 22 injury crashes by rural or urban areas (rural is defined as an area with a speed limit of 80km/h or more).

### Casualties by urban / rural 2008

	Fatalities	Serious injuries	Minor injuries	Total
Rural	2	4	20	26
Urban	1	1	4	6
Total	3	5	24	32

More than eight of every ten people killed or injured in crashes in Mackenzie District were from crashes in rural areas.

The number of people killed in the district in 2008 equalled the previous ten-year high of three. The highest number of reported injury crashes in the district was in 2006. Each year since then the total number of injury crashes has dropped.

### Crash trends in Mackenzie District

Year	Fatal Crashes	Serious Crashes	Minor Crashes	Total Crashes
1999	2	2	12	16
2000	1	6	12	19
2001	0	4	10	14
2002	2	10	9	21
2003	3	4	13	20
2004	0	4	12	16
2005	2	7	11	20
2006	2	1	24	27
2007	1	5	17	23
2008	3	3	16	22

### Injury crashes 2004 to 2008

Crash type or contributory cause 2004 to 2008	Local road Percentage injury crashes	State Highway Percentage of injury crashes
Alcohol	22	5
Too fast	16	17
At bends	56	43
At intersections	9	14
Road factors	19	14
Overseas drivers (% of at fault drivers)	21	33

### Vulnerable road users - casualties

Road user type	Local road Percentage of all casualties	State Highway Percentage of all casualties
Pedestrians	0	0
Cyclists	0	2
Motorcycles	6	9
<b>Total vulnerable</b>	6	11

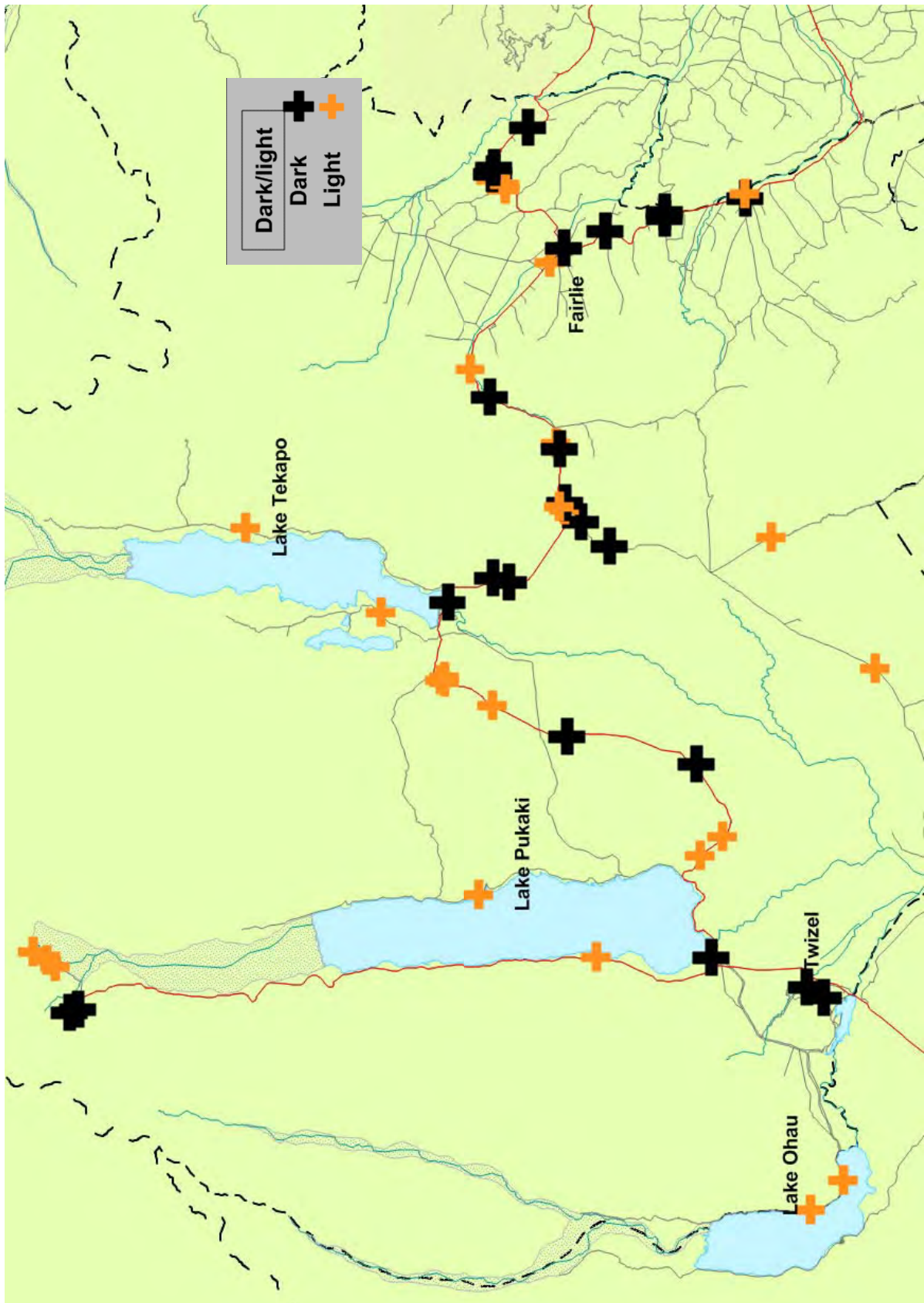
Further information about 2004 to 2008 injury crashes on local roads in Mackenzie District :

- Worst month February
- Worst day Friday, Saturday, Sunday
- 6 percent on wet or icy roads
- 28 percent at night
- 9 percent at intersections
- 22 roadside objects struck
- Social cost of crashes in 2008 \$5.0 m

Further information about 2004 to 2008 injury crashes on State Highways in Mackenzie District :

- Worst month December
- Worst day Thursday
- 22 percent on wet or icy roads
- 33 percent at night
- 14 percent at intersections
- 46 roadside objects struck
- Social cost of crashes in 2008 \$12.1 m

Injury bend - loss of control or head on crashes  
Mackenzie District  
2004 - 2008



## Bend - loss of control or head on

Between 2004 and 2008 47 percent of all injury crashes in Mackenzie District were bend - loss of control or head on crashes. These 51 crashes resulted in four fatalities, 14 serious injuries and 62 minor injuries.

In 2006 the number of fatal and injury crashes was the highest in the last five years. Since then the number has dropped each year.

Injury loss of control or head on crashes 2004 to 2008				
Crash year	Fatal crashes	Serious crashes	Minor crashes	Total
2004	0	1	2	3
2005	1	4	4	9
2006	1	1	14	16
2007	0	2	11	13
2008	2	2	6	10
Total	4	10	37	51

After drivers lose control their vehicles often crash into roadside hazards such as ditches, banks, poles or trees. Hitting these objects can result in a relatively minor off-road event turning into something far more serious.

The most common roadside hazards struck in injury loss of control or head on crashes on bends in Mackenzie District were over bank (10), fences (7), and ditches (6) from a total of 39 objects struck.

Main characteristics of injury bend -loss of control or head on crashes	
Crash characteristic	Percentage of crashes
Single vehicle	88
Alcohol	12
Excessive speed for the conditions	24
Road factors	24
Poor handling	57
Rural road	82
Wet or icy road	25
Night time	47

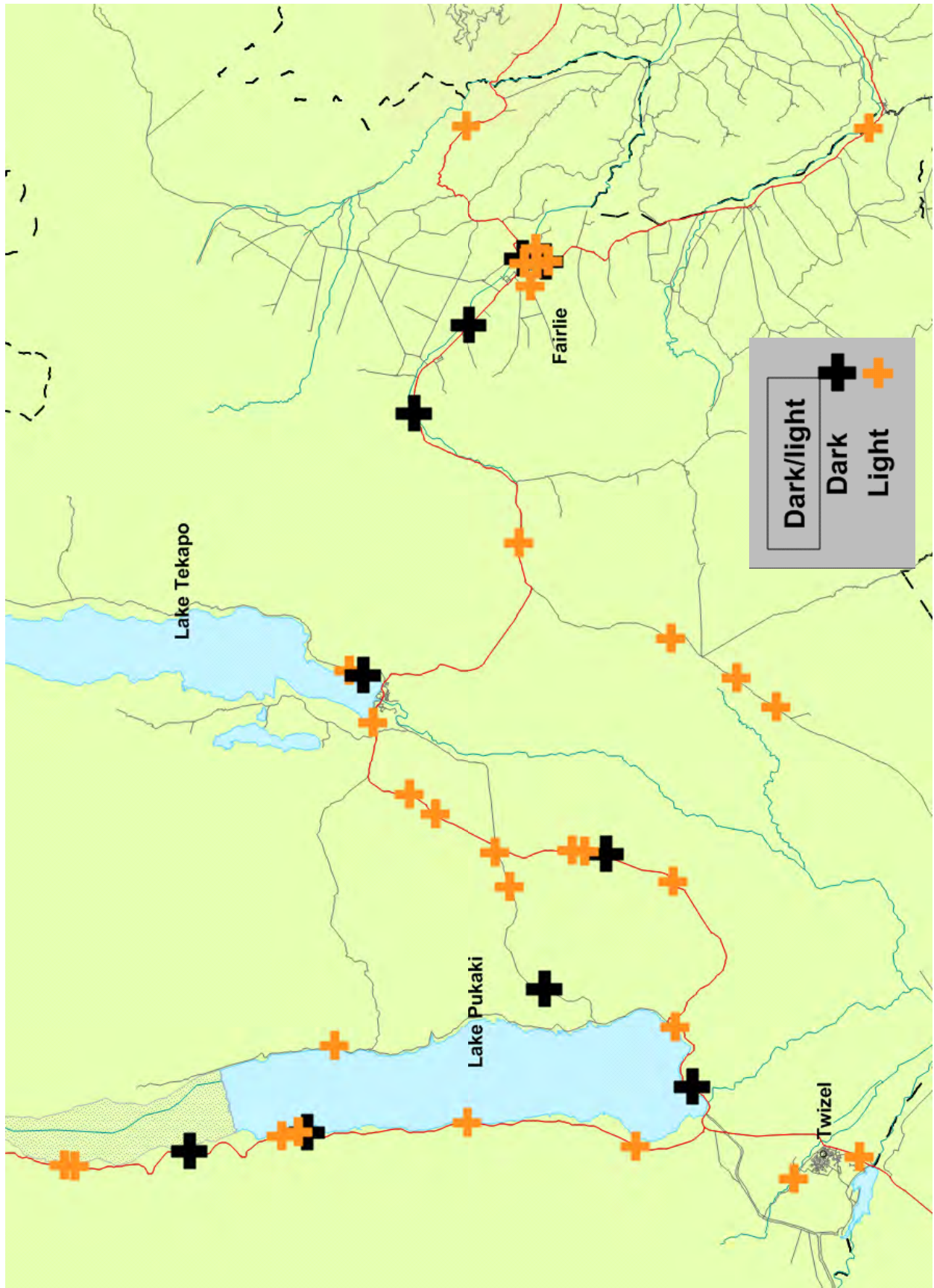
Further information about the 18 injury bend - loss of control or head on crashes (2004 to 2009) on local roads in Mackenzie District :

- 2 deaths, 6 serious injuries and 24 minor injuries
- 72 percent of at fault drivers were male
- All at fault drivers were under 50 years old
- 22 percent of crashes involved alcohol
- 17 percent of crashes involved speed too fast for the conditions
- Worst month February
- Worst day of week Saturday
- Worst time period midday till 3 pm

Further information about the 33 injury bend - loss of control or head on crashes (2004 to 2008) on State Highways in Mackenzie District:

- 2 deaths, 8 serious injuries and 38 minor injuries
- 72 percent of at fault drivers were male
- Most common at fault driver age group 20 - 24 years (25 percent of at fault drivers)
- 6 percent of crashes involved alcohol
- 27 percent of crashes involved speed too fast for the conditions
- Worst month July
- Worst day of week Thursday, Saturday
- Worst time period 3 pm to 6 pm

Injury straight road - loss of control or head on crashes  
Mackenzie District  
2004 - 2008



## Straight road –loss of control or head on

Between 2004 and 2008 thirty seven percent of all injury crashes in Mackenzie District were straight road - loss of control or head on crashes. These 40 crashes resulted in 7 fatalities, 12 serious injuries and 48 minor injuries.

### Straight road - loss of control or head on injury crashes 2004 to 2008

Crash year	Fatal crashes	Serious crashes	Minor crashes
2004	0	2	5
2005	1	2	6
2006	1	0	6
2007	1	3	5
2008	1	1	6
Total	4	8	28

Most of these crashes occur when a driver loses control of their vehicle and either runs off the road or collides with another vehicle.

After drivers lose control their vehicles often crash into roadside hazards such as ditches, banks, poles or trees. Hitting these objects can result in a relatively minor off-road event turning into something far more serious.

The most common roadside hazards struck in injury crashes in Mackenzie District were ditches (5), tree (3), fence (3) and trees (3) from a total of 23 objects struck.

### Main characteristics of injury straight road - loss of control crashes 2004 to 2008

Crash characteristic	Percentage of crashes
Single vehicle	90
Alcohol	13
Excessive speed for the conditions	10
Road factors	13
Poor handling	53
Rural road	88
Wet or icy road	10
Night time	25

Further information about the 12 injury straight road - loss of control or head on crashes (2008 to 2008) on local roads in Mackenzie District:

- 1 death, 1 serious injury and 18 minor injuries
- 73 percent of at fault drivers were male
- Most common crash type “off road to left” and “off road to right”
- Most common at fault driver age group 15 to 19 years and 30 - 39 years
- 25 percent of crashes involved alcohol
- 17 percent of crashes involved speed
- 17 percent involved “road factors”
- 17 percent involved fatigue
- 17 percent involved water/river as a struck object
- None on wet or icy roads
- 83 percent at night
- Worst month January
- Worst day of week Friday, Sunday
- Worst time period midday to 3 pm

Further information about the 28 injury straight road - loss of control or head on crashes (2004 to 2008) on State Highways in Mackenzie District:

- 6 deaths, 11 serious injuries and 30 minor injuries
- 63 percent of at fault drivers were male
- Most common crash type “off road to left”
- Most common at fault driver age group 50 to 59 years
- 7 percent of crashes involved alcohol
- 7 percent of crashes involved speed
- 11 percent involved “road factors”
- 46 percent involved fatigue
- 14 percent involved ditches as a struck object
- 14 percent on wet or icy roads
- 29 percent at night
- Worst month December
- Worst day of week Saturday
- Worst time period 3 pm to 6 pm

## Overseas drivers

In Mackenzie District between 2004 and 2008 there were 35 injury crashes that involved overseas drivers. These crashes resulted in 7 fatalities, 11 serious injuries and 49 minor injuries.

These drivers include both tourists and New Zealand residents driving on an overseas licence.

In 2007, four people died from crashes involving overseas drivers. In 2008 two died. The total number injured in 2008 was the highest in the last five years.

### Injuries in crashes involving overseas drivers

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Fatal	0	0	1	4	2
Serious	0	5	0	2	4
Minor	7	11	12	8	11
Total	7	16	13	14	17

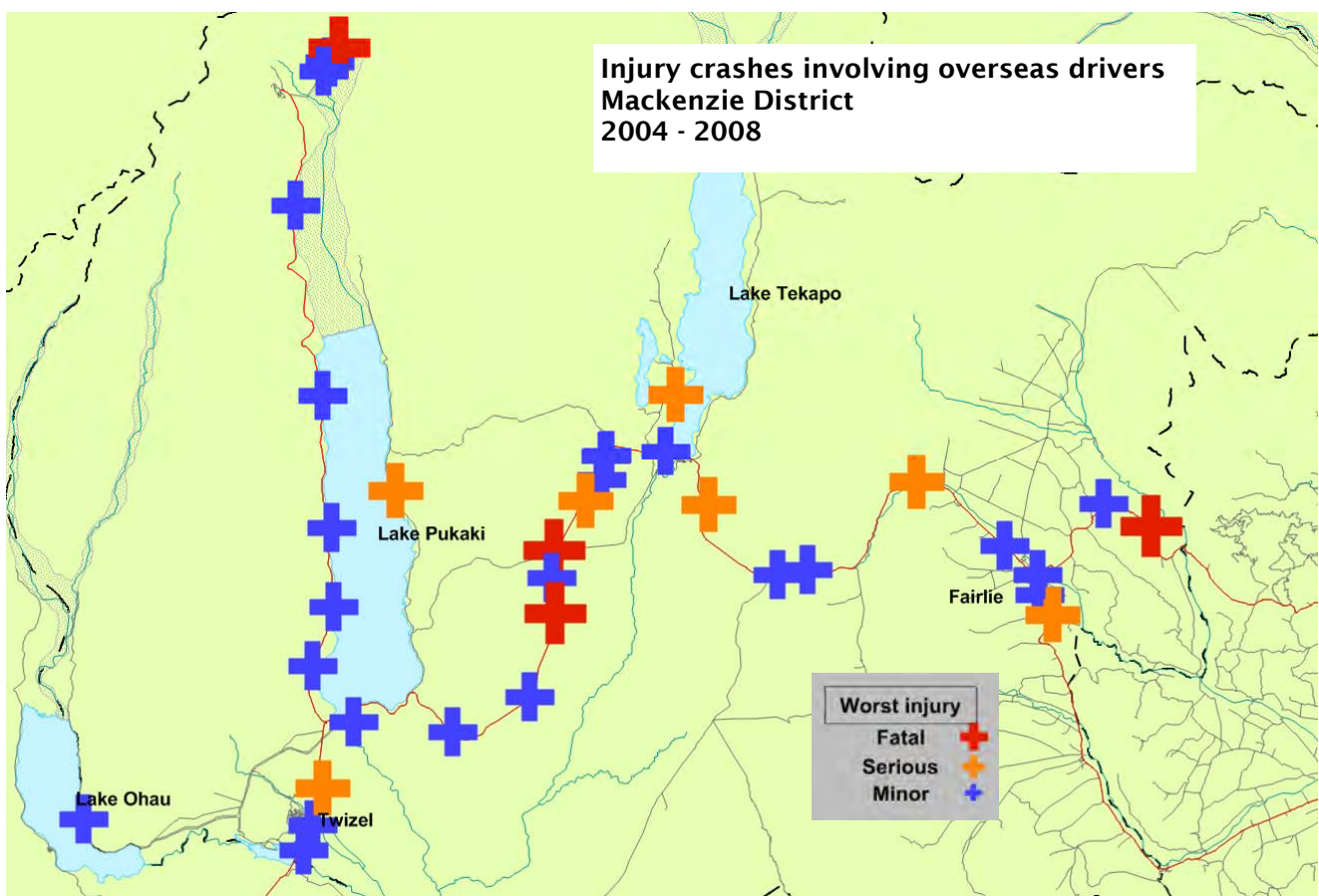
In Mackenzie District, Lost control accounted for 86 percent of all injury crashes involving overseas drivers. Male drivers of all ages made up 68 percent of at fault drivers in these crashes.

The home locations of the overseas drivers were

Europe	8	Asia	4
United Kingdom	3	North America	2
Australia	2		

Further information about the 35 injury crashes involving overseas drivers in Mackenzie District 2004 to 2008:

- The most common crash type was Loss of control
- Most common crash factors Poor handling, Poor judgement and Poor observation
- 46 percent of crashes at bends
- 6 percent of crashes at intersections
- 14 percent of crashes at night
- 9 percent in of crashes in wet or icy conditions
- Worst month November
- Worst day of week Thursday
- Worst times 3 pm - 6 pm



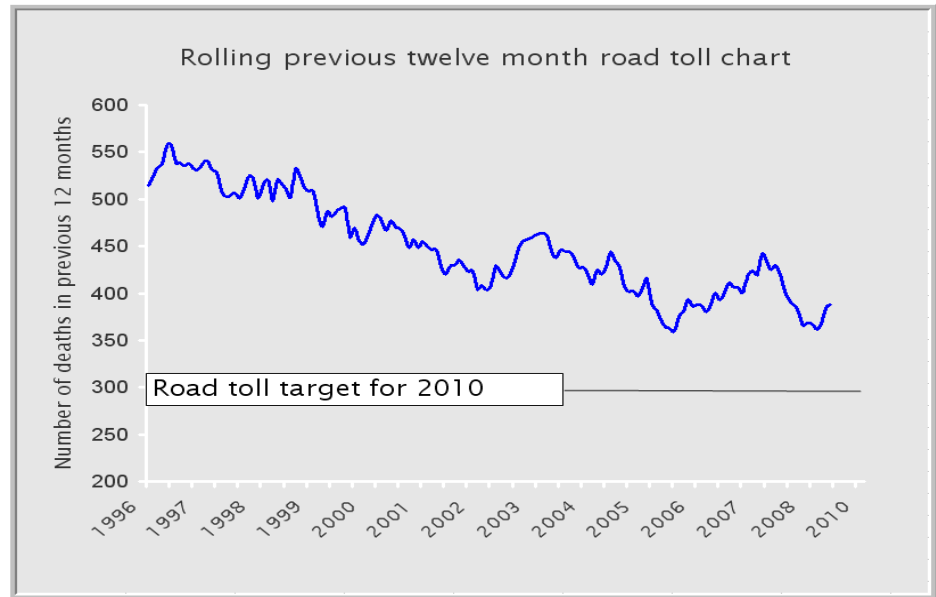


## The next ten years—moving beyond Road Safety 2010

In August this year the Ministry of Transport (MoT) will embark on a nationwide road safety consultation programme as it moves to formulate priorities for the next ten years.

The chart on the right illustrates the progress made during the life of the Road Safety 2010 strategy and while progress has been made it would seem unlikely that the target of 300 or fewer fatalities will be met.

Information will be published on the Ministry of Transport web site and we would encourage any person or group with an interest in road safety to watch the site carefully for developments.



Follow this link: <http://www.transport.govt.nz/ourwork/Land/landsafety/SaferJourneys-RoadSafetyStrategyto2020/>

### Restraints

The Ministry of Transport conducts surveys of restraint use. Results are available for front, rear and child restraints although not all at a local authority level. The results of these surveys are available at the MoT website: <http://www.transport.govt.nz/research/safetybeltstatistics/>

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