



# *briefing notes - road safety issues*

## *Westland District*

Land Transport New Zealand has prepared this road safety issues report. It is based on reported crash data and trends for the 2002–2006 period.

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

All the material unless otherwise stated in this report applies to both local roads and to State Highways (Transit roads).

In each year’s report one year’s data is added to a five year block and the oldest dropped so it is unlikely that the core issues for any local body 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 the Westland District is compared to similar local bodies or those with a high social cost (high numbers of fatal and serious crashes). We have included a brief overview of crashes in the district for 2006.

We encourage local bodies to use their free access to the Ministry of Transport Crash Analysis System to delve deeper into the highlighted issues.

Major road safety issues		2006 road trauma	
<b>Westland District</b>		<b>Casualties</b>	
Loss of control on rural roads		Deaths	1
Speed		Serious casualties	21
Alcohol		Minor casualties	51
<b>Nationally</b>		<b>Crashes</b>	
Speed		Fatal crashes	1
Alcohol		Serious injury crashes	16
Failure to give way		Minor injury crashes	28
Restraint use		Non-injury crashes	63

## Overview

In 2006 on local roads in the Westland District there were 14 injury crashes and 13 non-injury crashes, in addition there were 31 injury crashes and 50 non-injury crashes on State Highways, as reported by the New Zealand Police.

The table below shows the number of injuries resulting from 2006 crashes by rural or urban areas for both local and Transit roads. (Rural is defined as an area with a speed limit of 80km/h or more).

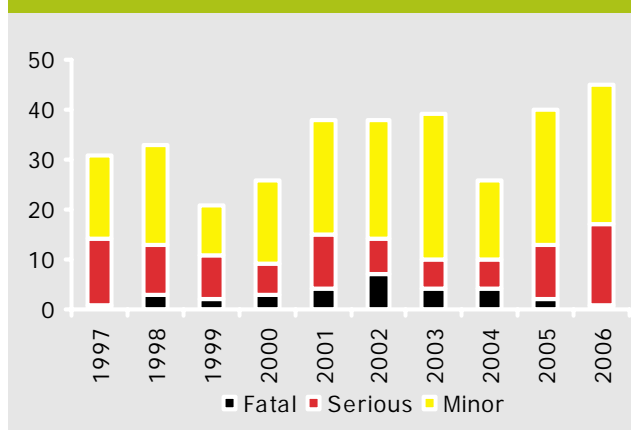
### Casualties by injury type 2006

	Fatalities	Serious injuries	Minor injuries	Total
Rural	0	18	41	59
Urban	1	3	10	14
Total	1	21	51	73

Fatalities in the district have been falling over the last five years from a high of eight in 2002.

Serious injuries on the other hand rose from ten to 21 over the same period.

### Injury crashes 1997 to 2006



Crash movement 2006	Percentage of all crashes of this type
Lost control at bend	52%
Lost control on straight	17%
Rear end/obstruction	20%
Overtaking	3%
Crossing/turning	7%
Miscellaneous	1%

Further information about 2006 injury and non-injury crashes on local roads:

- Worst month October (4), best December (0)
- Worst day Thursday (6), best Saturday (1)
- Wet road 29 percent
- Night time 55 percent
- Intersection 30 percent
- 71 percent of at fault drivers male (injury crashes)
- 43 percent of at fault drivers in injury crashes held a full NZ licence

Further information about 2006 injury and non-injury crashes on Transit roads

- Worst month February (15), best June (1)
- Worst day Friday (17), best Thursday (3)
- Wet road 43 percent
- Night time 21 percent
- Midblock 94 percent
- 76 percent of at fault drivers male (injury crashes)
- 52 percent of at fault drivers in injury crashes held a full NZ licence

It has been observed nationally that there is a growing group of drivers who have not been exiting the graduated licence system and who are choosing to stay on restricted licences. This is making it increasingly difficult to distinguish drivers who are truly inexperienced from those that should have moved to a full licence. As a consequence it is more difficult to target educational material.

In the Westland District however licence status figures are distorted by the number of overseas licence holders involved in crashes. In 2006 over a quarter of all at fault drivers held a licence from overseas as shown below.

Driver licence status 2006	Percentage of total 'at fault' drivers (NZ value in brackets)
Full	48.8 (58.4) %
Learner	11.6 (9.5) %
Restricted	6.9 (17.6) %
Never licenced	0 (2.2) %
Disqualified	0 (1.7) %
Overseas	27.9 (4.2) %
Expired	0 (0.5) %
Other / unknown	4.6 (5.6) %

## Rural crashes

In 2006 82 percent of reported crashes in the Westland District occurred on rural roads, that is roads with a speed limit greater than 70km/h. These crashes resulted in 18 serious and 41 minor injuries. There were a further 51 non injury crashes reported that year.

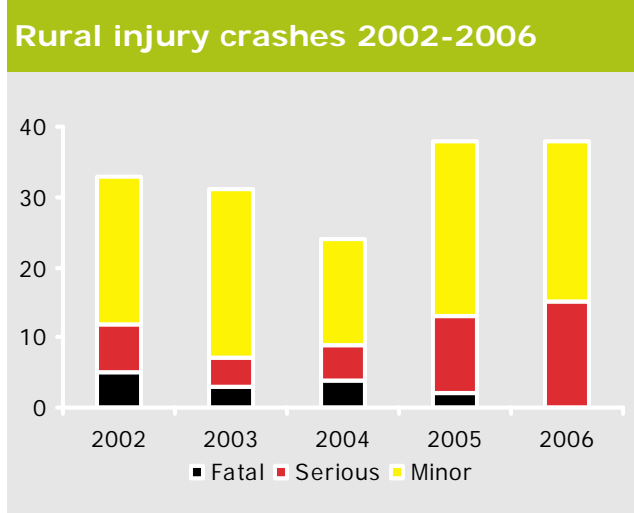
Three quarters of rural crashes involved a vehicle losing control and either leaving the road or colliding with an oncoming vehicle.

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

The following table shows the number of various road side hazards that were hit in rural crashes in the Westland District during the period 2002-2006. Note that the same hazard can be struck more than once in the same crash and that each crash could have a number of objects of different types hit.

Type of roadside hazard	Local road	State Highway
Animals	0	3
Bridge ends	7	19
Cliff or bank	8	35
Debris	1	3
Ditch	13	46
Fence	12	37
House or building	0	2
Guard rail	0	6
Over bank	8	26
Parked vehicle	4	3
Post or pole	4	6
Slip or flood	0	1
Stray animal	2	9
Traffic sign	0	13
Train	0	1
Tree	14	22
Water/River	6	14

The 89 reported crashes on rural roads in 2006 was lower than the previous two years but the number of crashes resulting in injury was equal to 2005 – at 38 the highest figure over the last ten years.



Further information about rural crashes in the Westland District in 2006:

### Local roads

- Two serious injuries and 12 minor injuries
- At fault drivers 78 percent male
- Most common crash type losing control on a bend
- 30 percent of injury crashes involved alcohol over limit
- 30 percent of crashes involved a vehicle travelling too fast for the conditions
- 33 percent of crashes were on a wet surface
- 60 percent of crashes occurred at night
- 87 percent of crashes involved a single vehicle

### Transit roads

- 16 serious injuries and 29 minor injuries
- At fault drivers 78 percent male
- One third of at fault drivers held an overseas licence
- 14 percent of injury crashes involved alcohol over limit
- 29 percent of injury crashes involved a vehicle travelling too fast for the conditions
- 44 percent of crashes were on a wet surface
- 22 percent of crashes occurred at night
- 66 percent of crashes involved a single vehicle
- Ten percent of crashes took place at an intersection
- Worst month was February, best June

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