Detour routes tool
when your regular route isn’t available

When unplanned disruptions hit our networks people still need to be able to finish their journeys as safely and as quickly as possible. Traditionally when a state highway was closed, paper maps and information were hauled from cupboards or folders, and detours set up for travelers to follow.

What the Transport Agency saw was a need for a tool that could be used to establish a detour as quickly as possible and could be used out in the field.

A digital solution
The Transport Agency took the mountain of approved maps and information from around the country and digitised it to create an online detour routes tool https://detours-staging.myworksites.co.nz/

We worked with a number of key people and organisations, including the NZ Police, councils, Network Outcomes Contract suppliers and TOCs, to develop the best alternative routes. Without appropriate agreed detour routes, the risk and cost from unexpected disruptions would be much higher and contentious.

Just a handful of clicks
Now, with this tool it takes just a handful of clicks for users to identify the agreed detour routes, comparative distance and travel times, which vehicle types each route is suitable for, and other key pieces of information. Initial feedback on the tool when presented to emergency services has been very positive.

The tool is constantly being updated with new information and in time we hope to see versions released with other information such as where rest stops and food outlets sit along detour routes, or how many extra speed signs or temporary road markings a detour route would need once established.

Not just for emergencies
The tool has other possible uses as well, such as in transport planning studies to assess the resilience and associated responses for road corridor or local network studies. Or in prioritising local road maintenance activities and levels of service.

For further information visit the NZ Transport Agency website www.nzta.govt.nz/roads-and-rail/highways-information-portal/technical-disciplines/resilience-project/ or email resilience-infrastructureplanning@nzta.govt.nz.