



TruckR

September 2017

The app designed and tested by truck drivers, for truck drivers

We heard you - meet TruckR

TruckR is a new app designed to provide safety and journey information to truck drivers travelling on the alternate Picton to Christchurch route.

The app highlights stopping areas suitable for 20 metre trucks, passing lanes, trailer swap areas, one lane bridges, and places with limited cellular coverage along the route, along with petrol stations, food outlets and public toilets.

It also connects to the Transport Agency traffic and travel alert system, giving users up to date information road works, crashes and road closures.

TruckR users can open the app and plan their journey before they start, or pull over and check information on the way, as the map features can operate without mobile phone coverage.

TruckR will be trialled by the freight industry for three months, with plans underway to include the State Highway 1 Kaikoura Road. The app is funded by the Transport Agency and was built by two New Zealand companies, Webtools and Green Signal, with the support of the Road Transport Association NZ (RTANZ).

Background

TruckR is part of a wider Alternate Route Truck Crashes/Rollover Prevention Plan that has been developed by the South Island's Truck Crashes/Rollover Prevention Team.

The team is made up of representatives from the Transport Agency, Road Transport Forum, NZ Trucking Association, Road Transport Association of NZ, Heavy Haulage, National Road Carriers, NZ Police, Commercial Vehicle Investigation Unit, Transport Agency contractors and consultants, and the North Canterbury Transport Infrastructure Recovery alliance.

In addition to the plan, the Transport Agency has reviewed speed limits along the alternate route to make it safer, and has committed to a \$60 million improvement package to improve safety and resilience. These improvements include guardrails, pull over areas for heavy vehicles, slow vehicle bays and road widening. There is also an increased Police presence on the route this year.



Lee Wright
Transport Agency
Journey Manager

"After the earthquake the South Island's Truck Crashes/Rollover Prevention Team got together to brainstorm ways of reducing single heavy vehicle rollover crashes on the alternate route.

"Our aim is to reduce death and serious injury crashes and minimise closures and delays for all travellers.

"TruckR is one of many actions from that plan and it is exciting to see the app being trialled by the freight industry. We are keen to get as much feedback as possible, so please get in touch if you have ideas to improve TruckR."



John Bond
RTANZ representative

RTANZ representative John Bond has been working with the Transport Agency on the app.

He says it will make a real difference to truck drivers negotiating the alternate route after the 2016 Kaikoura earthquake.

"This app has been designed and tested by truckies, for truckies.

"Most drivers travelling on the Alternate Route are not familiar with it and as drivers know, you can't just park a 20-metre truck wherever you want to and it is hard to just stop suddenly, even if you do spot somewhere on your travels.

"This app will let users plan ahead and get the local knowledge they need to make the drive easier and safer."



“ Although we have been doing a few kilometers up the alternate route lately it's reasonably uncharted territory for our team so having instant and practical information at our fingertips is awesome ”

Alle Worner, Hilton Haulage

The team at Hilton Haulage, including Graeme McLaren (pictured), tested TruckR before the launch and say it is a great tool.

How do I use TruckR?

TruckR is easy to use. Just download the app from Google Play store or Apple App Store and get started. You can plan ahead before you start driving, or pull over and check information during your journey.

-  **The first page is traffic alerts** to give you a heads up on what is ahead. The alerts cover everything from road closures and crashes to road works which could cause delays. This information is updated every five minutes.
-  **The map icon** gives you an overview of the alternate route. You can tap on icons on the map to get more information on areas that interest you. You can also personalise this part by hitting the icon on the top right hand side of the app. Simply check the things you want to find, from toilet stops to trailer swaps, and let the app filter out the rest. Focussed on finding a feed? Uncheck everything apart from food to find cafes and restaurants with space to park your truck.
-  **The settings icon** lets you personalise TruckR even more. You can choose the type of fuel card your company uses and only the fuel stops that accept these cards will be shown on the map. You can also send the Transport Agency feedback on road conditions, a specific stop on your journey, and the TruckR app. Don't be shy, let us know what we can do to improve.



Get TruckR



TruckR has been funded by the NZ Transport Agency, in partnership with the Road Transport Association NZ

To find out more



www.nzta.govt.nz/traffic-and-travel-information