

# YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

During our recent NCTIR project update evenings, you asked us some great questions. We're answering them here so everyone can read our responses.

We'll continue to answer your questions in future issues of the Kaikōura Star. If you have anything you want to know, please email [info@nctir.com](mailto:info@nctir.com). We appreciate your comments and feedback.



## **Why are there so many guardrails? Wouldn't 'slow down' signs be cheaper and safer?**

Guardrails are being installed at various spots along SH1 to help improve safety for road users. They are a safety tool used when the consequences of a vehicle hitting them is less than the hazard which they are protecting. So, for example, they could be installed near an unexpected curve to stop someone going down a slope if they lose control.

'Slow down' signs are a useful road safety tool, but they're not an active road safety measure and don't achieve the same outcome as barriers. We know people make mistakes, and those mistakes shouldn't result in death or serious injury.

The 2018 Government Policy Statement, which sets out the Government's priorities for transport funding, encourages investment in treatments that reduce the risk of head-on and run-off road crashes, such as installing median and side barriers.

## **People have been seen climbing over the guardrails to get to the beach, is this safe?**

The guardrails we're installing are only 790mm high, so people can easily step over them to access the beach. But drivers will need to make sure they're parked in a safe and appropriate place before leaving their vehicle.

## **Will smoothing out curves in the road (as part of the safety improvements package) encourage higher speeds?**

Losing control on a curve is one of the most common causes of crashes on rural state highways. Unexpected curves, like some of the ones around Kaikōura, can be problematic for drivers because they require special concentration as it's difficult to maintain a consistent speed on them.

Smoothing out the unexpected curves on a road makes it more consistent, which helps reduce the risk of a driver losing control.