

KAIKOURA EARTHQUAKE UPDATE

WEEKLY BULLETIN No. 4

17 February 2017

This weekly bulletin aims to give you the latest information on all the work underway to rebuild and repair the road and rail networks damaged by the Hurunui/Kaikoura earthquakes in November 2016. The bulletin is provided by the North Canterbury Transport Infrastructure Recovery (NCTIR) – an alliance representing the NZ Transport Agency and KiwiRail, on behalf of Government. We're keen to hear from you with any questions about our work, or with any feedback on this bulletin. Drop us a line via email at info@nctir.com or give us a call on **0800 NCTIR EQ** (0800 628 4737) – we'd like to hear from you.

OUR FOCUS:

DO IT QUICK, BUT DO IT SAFE

Safety is our top priority as we begin to move machinery on-site to clear the slips to the north of Kaikoura. With our crews often working close to communities, we want to ensure everyone is safe and we ask that you strictly adhere to all signage and work site restrictions – they are there for your safety and that of our crews.

Earthquakes bring thousands of loose rocks down onto a slip face which pose a number of safety risks. While we have used helicopters to drop water on the slip faces to wash off any loose material, and abseilers to pull off any loose rocks, there are still a number of risks that exist. These two measures simply help stabilise the slip to enable diggers to cut a path up to the top to begin removing it.

Working up to 200 metres up on the slip and with hundreds of loosened rocks underneath, the diggers can dislodge rocks and these can be projected some distance off the site. That is why we ask you stay safe by keeping well away from the works sites.

SH1 NORTH

Road and rail links north of Kaikoura to Picton remain closed. Our work recognises these networks are critical for getting your goods to

market, bringing visitors to the region and providing access for the many local communities along the route.

Latest update:

- We're making steady progress to the north on many fronts:
 - At Site 1, our abseilers are continuing to remove loose rocks to make it safe for our crews to start slip removal.
 - Machinery is completing the safe access track around Site 2 at Irongate, about 1km north of Blue Duck Road.
 - Crews are clearing smaller secondary slips near Site 2 and using this material to form the construction access roads.



Site 2, before (top photo) and after slicing

- Helicopter slicing and rock removal continues at Site 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 to further reduce the risk of rock fall – *refer map on last page.*
- Earthworks have started at Site 7, 300m north of Ohau Point, to build a

track up to the top of the slip so crews can begin bringing slip material down.

- Within the next fortnight, two remote-controlled excavators will be used to begin to build a shelf which will help to reduce rock fall hazards and enable earthworks to be carried out safely at Site 6, Ohau Point.
- Access tracks have been completed around Sites 8 and 9.
- We continue to blast the large rocks, up to 100-tonnes, along the route for easier removal.

SH1 SOUTH

State Highway 1 south of Kaikoura remains fragile. The highway is subject to on-going closures because of weather, seismic activity, and road repair work. Travel on the route continues to be restricted to daylight hours – 6am to 8pm.

Latest update:

- Work began this week repairing the badly damaged Oaro rail overbridge which has been closed since the earthquake. An excavator has begun clearing debris from under the bridge for engineers to begin the repairs. The work is scheduled to take several months and traffic will continue to be detoured around the bridge while the work is completed.



INLAND ROAD

Inland Road (Route 70) is now open 24/7 and remains a critical link for the Kaikoura community, with SH1 south open only during daylight hours.

Latest update:

- Work on the Inland Road continues to ensure the road will be in the best possible condition before the start of winter. The nature of the road makes it susceptible to closures during heavy rain and weather events. During the next few months, our crews are completing road repairs along the entire route and removing of rock fall hazards.

ALTERNATE SH1 ROUTE

Work on the alternate route (via Lewis Pass) is all about ensuring the route can cope with the extra traffic, along with making it safer and improving travel times.

Latest update:

- We're making great progress on rebuilding and strengthening sections of the alternate route, with 22% of this work now completed.
- We're also 16% of the way through completing the rebuild/strengthening work along 10 kilometres of SH63. This work will help make it a better ride for everyone, as will the resealing programme that is also well underway along other sections of the route.
- The team continues to investigate a variety of solutions for the remaining one-way bridges to improve safety and the reliability of journey times.

RAIL NETWORK

The Main North Line between Picton and Christchurch is a critical part of the network for moving freight between the North and South Islands. Like the road network, NCTIR is still working through the design and construction options to clear the slips safely and efficiently, and to repair the damaged structures. The line has re-opened between Spring Creek and Lake Grassmere.

Latest update:

- Major work is underway to reinstate KiwiRail's Picton – Christchurch line, with good progress on a bridge demolition near Hundalee. KiwiRail is using its temporary bridging spans to enable this section of the line to be reopened quickly – see below.



- Geo-tech testing is underway to prepare for the major earthworks that will need to be carried out; machines are already on-site drilling test bores.
- The design team is planning the works for the line, and contractors have begun gathering material and other resources to begin this work.
- At the same time, KiwiRail teams are pushing ahead with track work at both the northern and southern ends of the closed line to ensure it is ready for re-opening when the major works are complete.
- Work has already been completed at 120 of the 761 sites along the rail line that need repaired.

KAIKOURA HARBOUR

Reinstatement of Kaikoura Harbour is crucial to restoring the economic prosperity of the town's tourism and fishing industries.

Latest update:

- Three excavators are working to lower the seabed floor at Kaikoura Harbour and are making good progress. This will enable boats to access the wharf and boat ramp at all times. About 8000 cubic metres of the seabed has already been dredged.



KEEP UP TO DATE

How to contact us and keep up to date with the NCTIR project:

- Subscribe to receive our weekly bulletin by emailing info@nctir.com, with "Bulletin" in the subject line.
- Visit our website: www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/kaikoura-earthquake-response/
- Call our Freephone: **0800 NCTIR EQ** (0800 628 4737)
- Email us if you have a question: info@nctir.com,
- Attending one of the community meetings, keep an eye on your local newspapers.
- Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/nztasouthisland/ or www.facebook.com/kiwirail

SH1 Kaikōura Coast remedial works

