



briefing notes - road safety issues

West Coast Region

New Zealand Transport Agency has prepared this road safety issues report. It is based on reported crash data and trends for the 2004–2008 period.

The intent of the report is to highlight the key road safety issues and be a resource to identify possible ways to reduce the number of road deaths and injuries in West Coast Region.

In each new report one year's data is added to a five year block and the oldest dropped so it is unlikely that the core issues 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 West Coast Region is compared to national figures or those with high social cost (high numbers of fatal and serious crashes mainly).

We have included a brief overview of crashes in the region.

We encourage West Coast Region to delve deeper into the highlighted issues, and other road safety issues in the region. Contact the NZTA Performance Information team for additional information from to the Ministry of Transport's Crash Analysis System (CAS). All data and maps in this note are from CAS.

Major road safety issues

West Coast Region

Bend - loss of control or head-on

Speed

Motorcycles

Overseas drivers

Nationally

Speed

Alcohol

Failure to give way

Restraints

2008 road trauma

Casualties

West Coast Region

Deaths 8

Serious casualties 39

Minor casualties 134

Crashes

West Coast Region

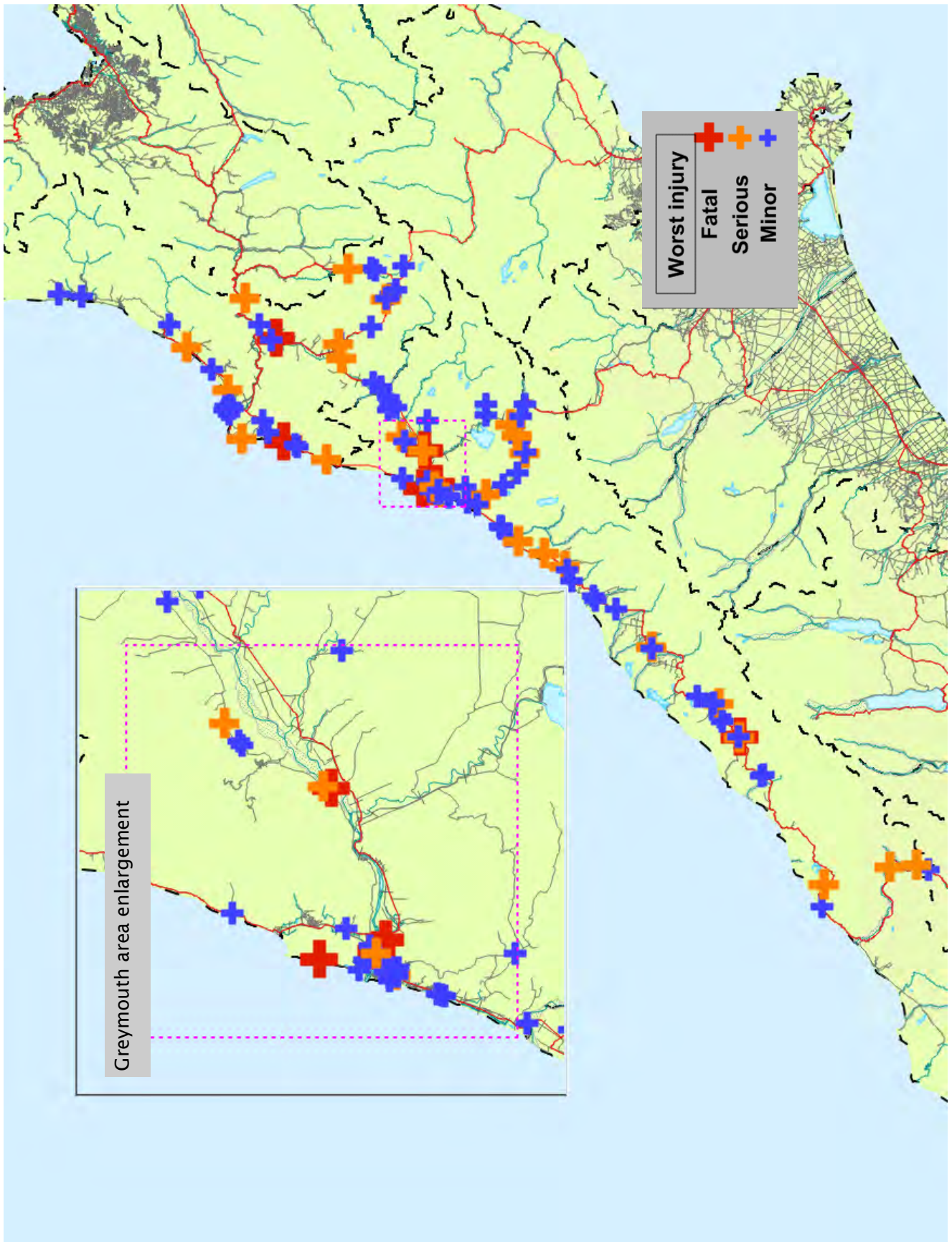
Fatal crashes 7

Serious injury crashes 26

Minor injury crashes 90

Non-injury crashes 194

Reported injury crashes
West Coast Region
2008



Overview

In 2008 on local roads in West Coast Region there were 37 injury crashes and 80 non-injury crashes. In addition there were 86 injury crashes and 114 non-injury crashes on State Highways.

The table below shows the number of injuries resulting from the 123 injury crashes by rural or urban areas (rural is defined as an area with a speed limit of 80km/h or more).

Casualties by urban / rural 2008

	Fatalities	Serious injuries	Minor injuries	Total
Rural	8	28	94	130
Urban	0	11	40	51
Total	8	39	134	181

Overall almost three quarters of casualties were from crashes in rural areas of the district, but for fatal and serious casualties just over three quarters were in rural areas.

There has been an increase in reported fatal and injury crashes in the region over the last ten years, but since 2006, the total number has been almost stable. The number of fatal crashes has fluctuated between a high of 15 in 2001 and a low of 4 in 2006.

Crash trends in West Coast Region

Year	Fatal Crashes	Serious Crashes	Minor Crashes	Total Crashes
1999	7	28	50	85
2000	5	27	50	82
2001	15	25	66	106
2002	12	19	59	90
2003	5	26	80	111
2004	10	26	64	100
2005	6	29	72	107
2006	4	32	86	122
2007	6	32	85	123
2008	7	26	90	123

Injury crashes 2004 to 2008

Crash type or contributory cause 2004 to 2008	Local road Percentage injury crashes	State Highway Percentage of injury crashes
Alcohol	23	11
Too fast	30	28
At bends	50	58
At intersections	27	12
Road factors	13	19

Vulnerable road users - casualties

Road user type	Local road Percentage of all casualties	State Highway Percentage of all casualties
Pedestrians	6	1
Cyclists	3	1
Motorcycles	13	8
Total vulnerable	22	10

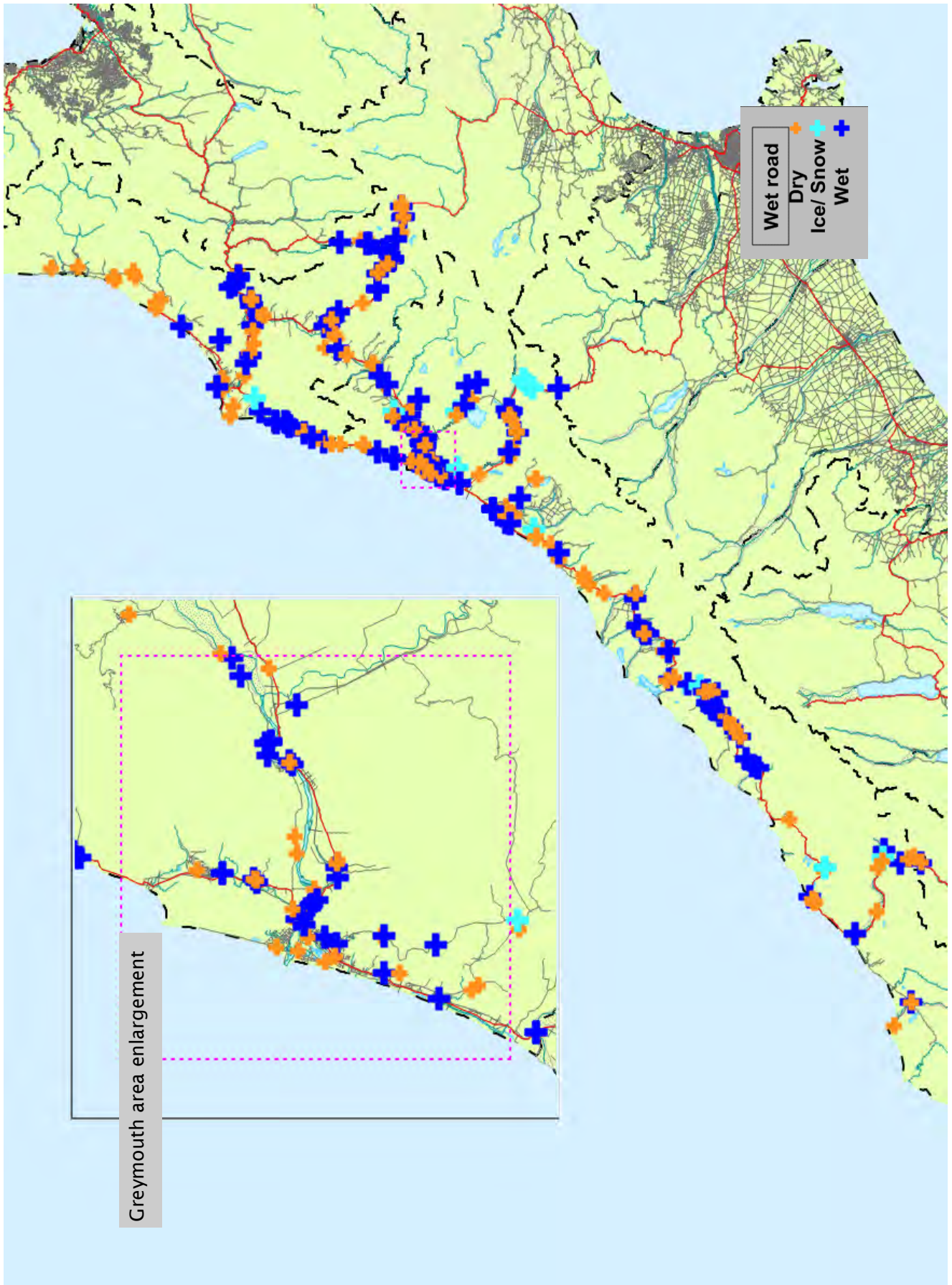
Further information about 2004 to 2008 injury crashes on local roads in West Coast Region :

- Worst month March
- Worst day Saturday
- 30 percent on wet or icy roads
- 45 percent at night
- 27 percent at intersections
- 123 roadside objects struck
- Social cost of crashes in 2008 \$18.1 m

Further information about 2004 to 2008 injury crashes on State Highways in West Coast Region :

- Worst month February
- Worst day Friday
- 45 percent on wet or icy roads
- 27 percent at night
- 12 percent at intersections
- 318 roadside objects struck
- Social cost of crashes in 2008 \$36.7 m

Injury bend - loss of control or head on crashes
West Coast Region
2004 - 2008



Bend - loss of control or head on

Between 2004 and 2008 fifty six percent of all injury crashes in West Coast Region were bend - loss of control or head on crashes. These 320 crashes resulted in 20 deaths, 110 serious injuries and 334 minor injuries.

There are no apparent trends in the crash numbers.

Bend - loss of control or head on crashes 2004 to 2008

Crash year	Fatal crashes	Serious crashes	Minor crashes	Total
2004	6	13	34	53
2005	3	17	41	61
2006	3	15	49	67
2007	3	24	51	78
2008	4	15	42	61
Total	19	84	217	320

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

The most common roadside hazards struck in injury bend - loss of control or head on crashes in West Coast Region were cliff or bank (71), over bank (47), tree (44), ditch (44) and fences (39) from a total of 313 objects struck.

Main characteristics of injury bend - loss of control or head on crashes

Crash characteristic	Percentage of crashes
Single vehicle	81
Alcohol	16
Excessive speed for the conditions	45
Road factors	21
Poor handling	61
Rural road	87
Wet or icy road	48
Night time	33

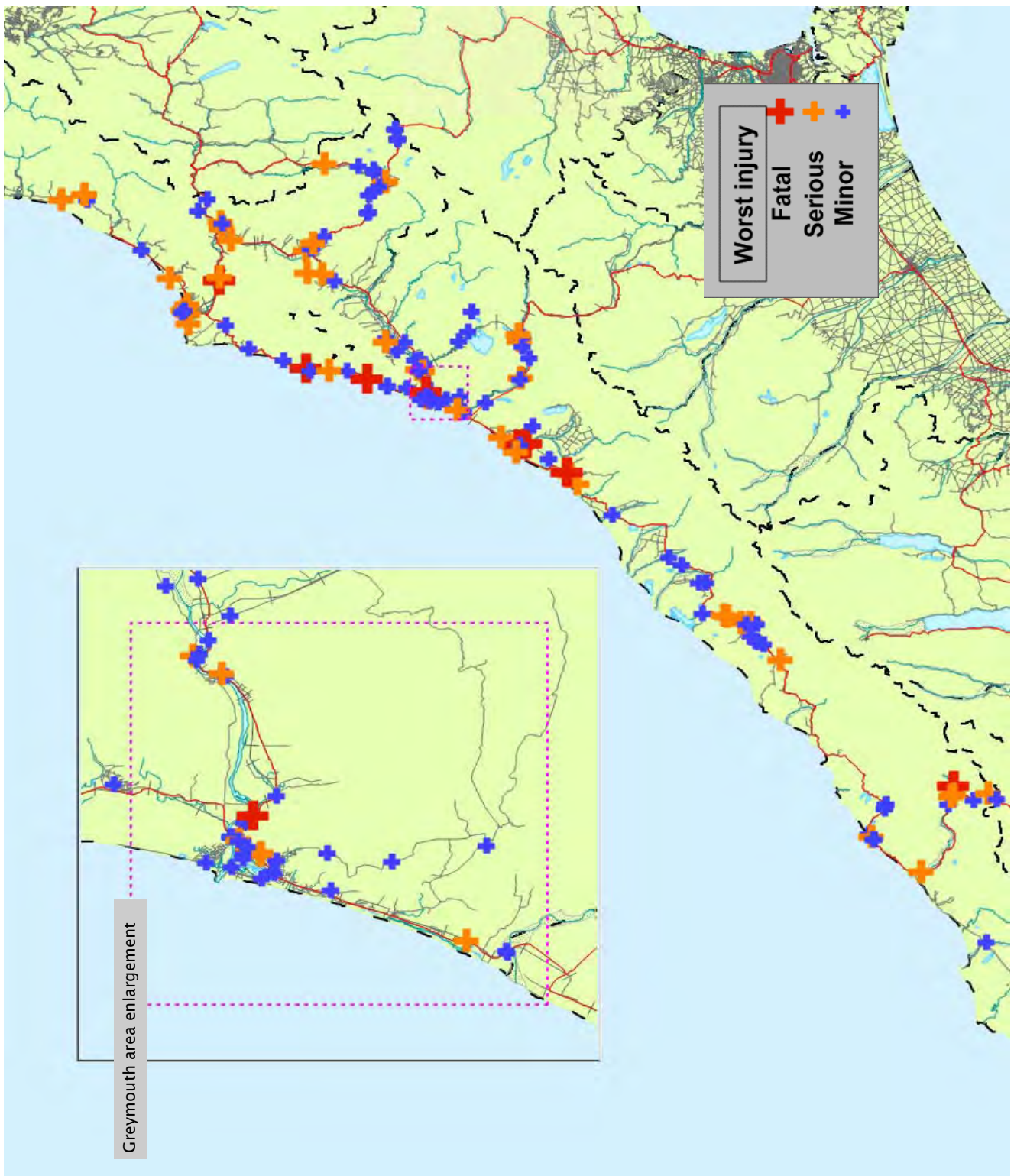
Further information about the 84 injury bend - loss of control or head on crashes (2004 to 2008) on local roads in West Coast Region :

- 5 deaths, 31 serious injuries and 82 minor injuries
- 81 percent of at fault drivers were male
- Most common at fault driver age group 15 -19 years (29 percent of all at fault drivers)
- 31 percent of crashes involved alcohol
- 54 percent of crashes involved speed too fast for the conditions
- Worst month March
- Worst day of week Sunday
- Worst time 6 pm till 9 pm

Further information about the 236 injury bend - loss of control or head on crashes (2004 to 2008) on State Highways in West Coast Region:

- 15 deaths, 79 serious injuries and 252 minor injuries
- 70 percent of at fault drivers were male
- Most common at fault driver age group 20 - 24 years (18 percent of at fault drivers)
- 11 percent of crashes involved alcohol
- 42 percent of crashes involved speed too fast for the conditions
- Worst month February
- Worst day of week Saturday
- Worst time midday to 3 pm

Injury crashes reported as "Too fast" West Coast Region 2004 - 2008



Speed

Nationally, speed is one of the major contributing factors to road crashes. Reducing speeds is an important road safety goal. Excessive speed increases the likelihood of a crash occurring by reducing the time available for drivers to respond to situations and it leads to more serious injuries. Research has shown that a one km/h reduction in mean speed can produce a three percent reduction in injury crashes.

Between 2004 and 2008, 29 percent of injury crashes in West Coast Region involved travelling too fast for the conditions. These 165 crashes resulted in 8 deaths, 55 serious injuries and 178 minor injuries.

Crash numbers rose in 2007 and dropped again in 2008. Over three quarters of crashes involving speed too fast for the conditions were in rural areas.

Speed related crashes					
Speed related crashes	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Rural	20	22	24	47	15
Urban	6	5	13	7	6
Total	26	27	37	54	21

The other main causes contributing to speed related crashes were:

- Poor handling
- Alcohol
- Poor judgement

Speed related injury crashes by local body					
Speed related crashes	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Buller	8	6	12	26	8
Grey	14	9	11	13	6
Westland	4	12	14	15	7

Age and sex of drivers at fault in speed related crashes

Drivers at fault in speed related injury crashes (2004- 2008)	Male	Female	Total
15-19 years	30	9	39
20 - 24	27	9	36
25 - 29	15	2	17
30 - 39	20	12	32
40 - 49	16	2	18
50 - 59	8	3	11
60 - 69	5	3	8
70+	5	1	6
Total	126	41	167

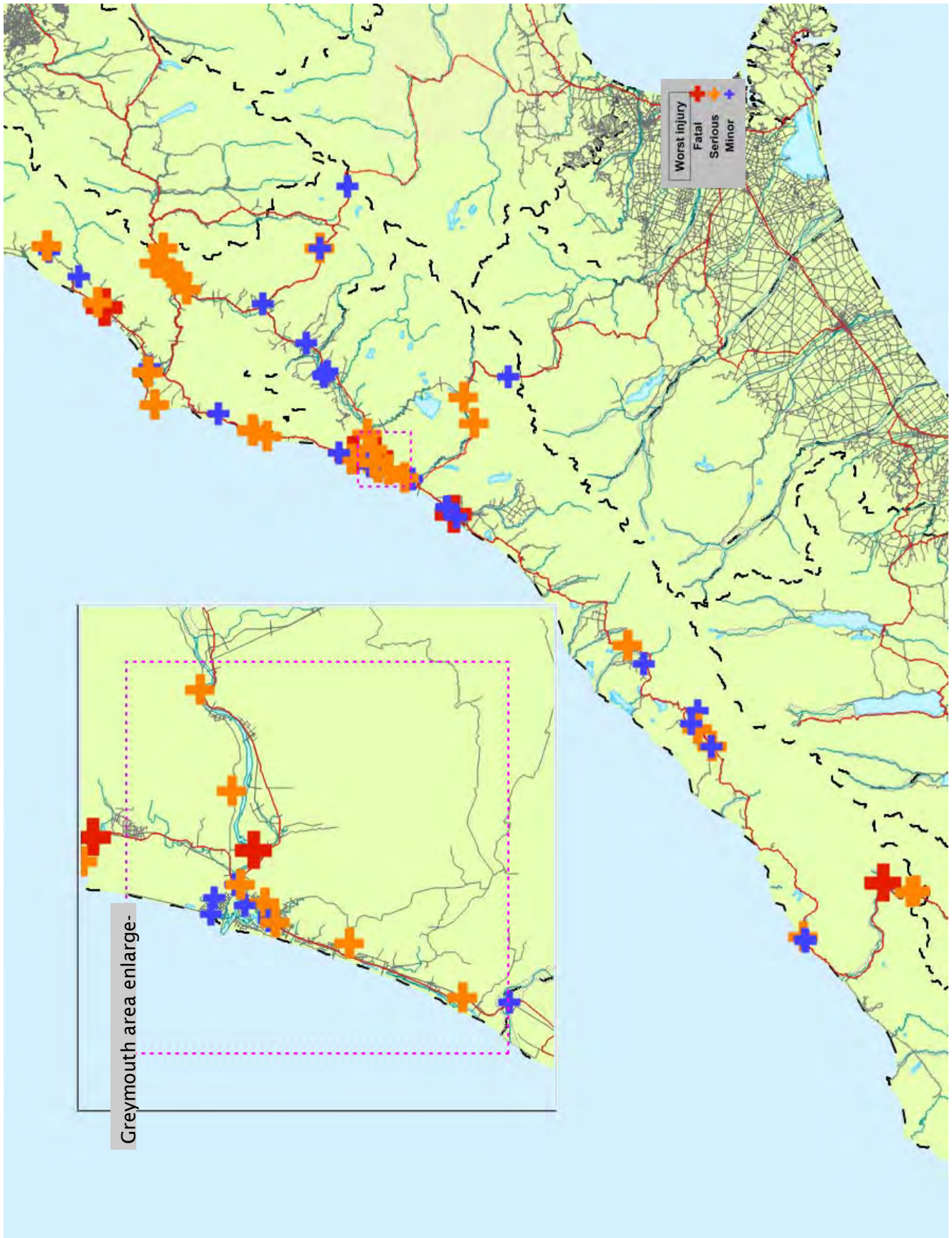
Further information about the 51 speed related injury crashes in West Coast Region on local roads (2004 to 2008):

- 2 deaths, 18 serious injuries and 57 minor injuries
- Most common crash type "bend - Loss of control or head-on"
- 76 percent mid-block
- 39 percent wet or icy road
- 59 percent night time
- Worst months March, August
- Worst day of week Saturday
- Worst time 6 pm - 9 pm

Further information about the 114 speed related injury crashes in West Coast Region on State highways (2004 to 2008):

- 6 deaths, 37 serious injuries and 121 minor injuries
- Most common crash type "bend - loss of control or head-on"
- 89 percent mid-block
- 59 percent wet or icy road
- 30 percent night time
- Worst month June
- Worst day of week Wednesday
- Worst time 3 pm - 6 pm

Injury crashes involving motor cyclists
West Coast Region
2004 - 2008



Motorcyclists

Nationally motorcycling fatalities dropped from 20 percent of all fatalities in 1988, to just six percent in 2003. Since then there has been an increase in motorcycle registrations and this has reversed the downward trend.

Motorcyclist casualties do not feature highly in the overall crash statistics in West Coast Region, representing only 9 percent of all casualties. However, they make up 19 percent of fatal and serious injuries.

Motorcyclist casualties

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Fatal	1	2	0	2	0
Serious	4	6	6	10	11
Minor	5	7	3	5	18
Total	10	15	9	17	29

Overall there is no apparent long term trend, but in 2008, the number of motorcyclist casualties increased markedly.

The most common type of motor cycle crash in the region is loss of control turning left followed by loss of control turning right.

Major causes in motorcycle crashes, West Coast Region, 2004-2008

Cause	Motorcyclist at fault	Other road users at fault
Poor observation	6	15
Failed to Give way or stop	2	7
Poor handling	23	5
Poor judgement	12	2
Incorrect lane or position	4	1
Overtaking	3	0
Alcohol	5	1
Too fast	15	1
Failed to keep left	9	2

Ages of motorcycle casualties

Ages	Female	Male	Total
15 to 19	1	11	12
20 to 24	0	3	3
25 to 29	0	2	2
30 to 34	2	6	8
35 to 39	1	4	5
40 to 44	1	4	5
45 to 49	1	11	12
50 to 54	7	6	13
55 to 59	0	7	7
60 to 64	0	7	7
65 to 69	1	3	4

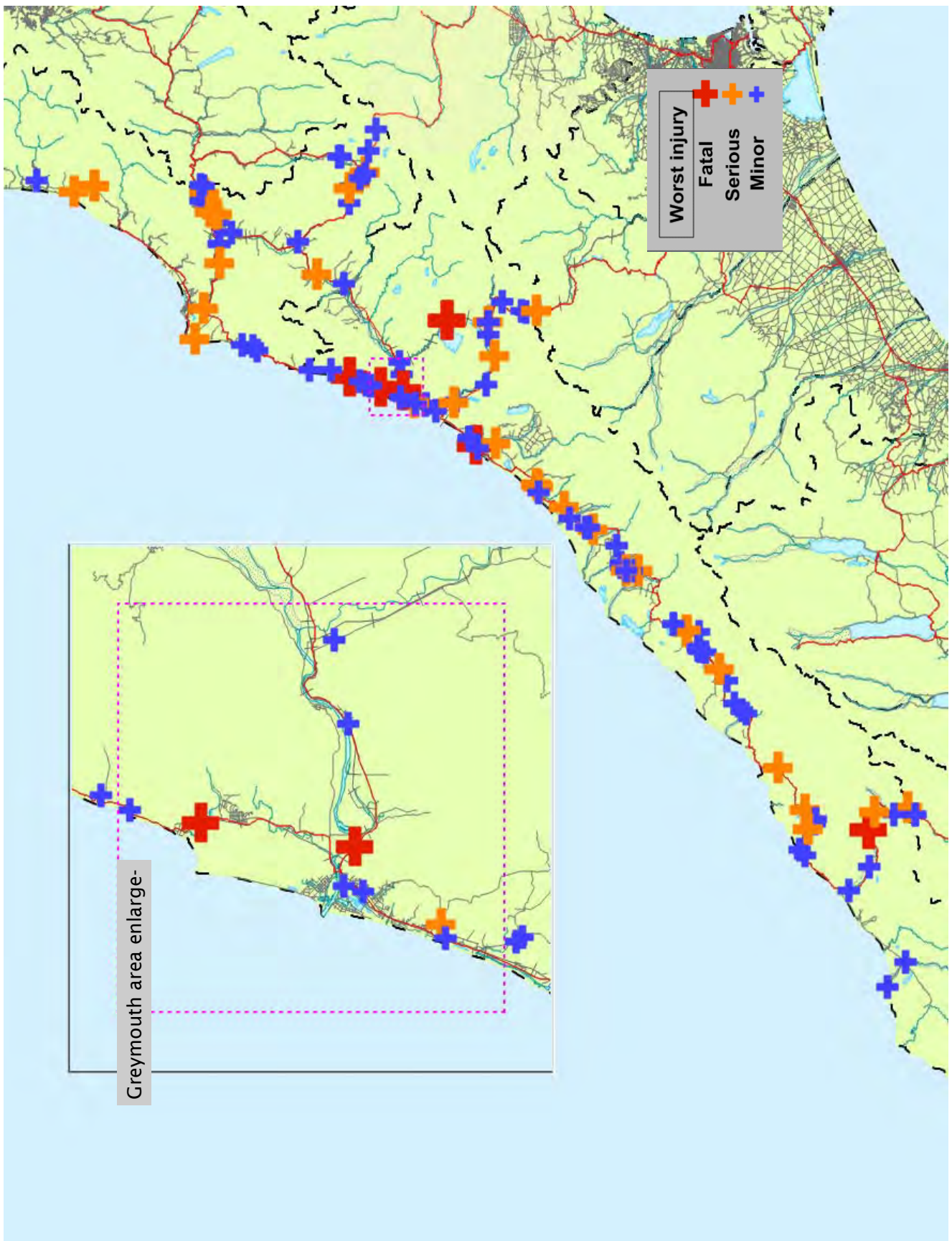
Further information about the 27 injury motorcyclist crashes on local roads in West Coast Region 2004 to 2008:

- 1 person died, 16 received serious injuries and 16 minor injuries
- 26 percent were on wet or icy roads
- 19 percent at intersections
- 26 percent at night
- Worst month March
- Worst day of week Friday
- Worst time 3 pm - 6 pm and 6 pm - 9 pm

Further information about the 45 injury motorcyclist crashes on State highways in West Coast Region 2004 to 2008:

- 4 people died, 22 received serious injuries and 28 minor injuries
- 31 percent were on wet or icy roads
- 9 percent at intersections
- 16 percent at night
- Worst months February , April
- Worst day of the week Saturday
- Worst time midday - 3 pm

Injury crashes involving overseas drivers
West Coast Region
2004 - 2008



Overseas drivers

In West Coast Region between 2004 and 2008 twenty one percent of injury crashes involved overseas drivers. These 121 crashes resulted in 7 deaths, 53 serious injuries and 151 minor injuries.

These drivers may include both tourists and New Zealand residents driving on an overseas licence.

Injuries in crashes in West Coast Region, involving overseas drivers					
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Fatal	4	2	0	0	1
Serious	7	11	10	9	16
Minor	23	44	31	28	25
Total	34	57	41	37	42

The number of casualties from crashes involving overseas drivers has fluctuated between a high of 57 in 2005 and a low of 34 in 2004. There is no apparent long term trend.

Injury crashes in West Coast Region involving overseas drivers 2004-2008					
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Rural	15	28	21	22	21
Urban	2	4	4	2	2
Total	17	32	25	24	23

More than nine in every ten crashes in the region that involved an overseas driver was in the rural area.

In the West Coast Region, 65 percent of all crashes involving overseas drivers were Bend - loss of control or head-on crashes. Straight road - loss of control or head on crashes accounted a further 14 percent of injury crashes.

Male drivers of all ages made up 69 percent of at fault drivers.

Ages of drivers at fault in crashes involving overseas drivers

Ages	Male	Female	Total
15 to 19	4	4	8
20 to 24	15	7	22
25 to 29	11	6	17
30 to 39	15	11	26
40 to 49	13	3	16
50 to 59	9	4	13
60 to 69	13	1	14
70 +	3	1	4

The common home locations of the overseas drivers were:

Europe	33
Australia-	17,
United Kingdom	19
Asia	17
North America	18

Further information about the 121 injury crashes involving overseas drivers in West Coast Region 2004 to 2008:

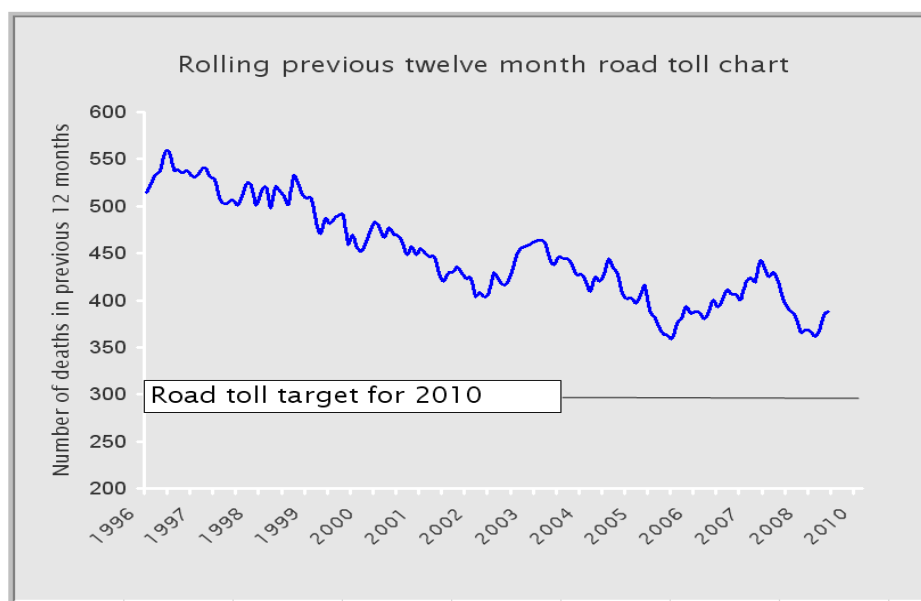
- Most common crash factors were:- Poor handling, Poor judgement, Poor observation and too fast.
- 7 percent of crashes were at intersections
- 7 percent of crashes at night
- 39 percent in of crashes in wet or icy conditions
- Worst month February
- Worst day of week Tuesday
- Worst times midday - 3 pm and 3 pm - 6 pm

The next ten years—moving beyond Road Safety 2010

In August this year the Ministry of Transport (MoT) will embark on a nationwide road safety consultation programme as it moves to formulate priorities for the next ten years.

The chart on the right illustrates the progress made during the life of the Road Safety 2010 strategy and while progress has been made it would seem unlikely that the target of 300 or fewer fatalities will be met.

Information will be published on the Ministry of Transport web site and we would encourage any person or group with an interest in road safety to watch the site carefully for developments.



Follow this link: <http://www.transport.govt.nz/ourwork/Land/landsafety/SaferJourneys-RoadSafetyStrategyto2020/>

Restraints

The Ministry of Transport conducts surveys of restraint use. Results are available for front, rear and child restraints although not all at a local authority level. The results of these surveys are available at the MoT website: <http://www.transport.govt.nz/research/safetybeltstatistics/>

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