



The Bulletin Kaikoura earthquake update

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WE DID IT! STATE HIGHWAY 1 REOPENED TODAY

State Highway 1 (SH1) north of Kaikoura opened this afternoon reconnecting the coastal corridor and neighbouring communities that have been separated since the earthquake in November last year. Road crews worked up until the last minute to get the road ready and were moving trucks and equipment off site this morning.

NCTIR Project Director David Loe said, 'Today is a huge achievement and the scale of work can't be underestimated. New Zealand has never seen a project like this. While work will continue in 2018, the result today is a testament to the dedication of over 1700 workers who went above and beyond to get the road back open for the communities that need it. I'm extremely proud of the team and what we've delivered.'

A dawn blessing was held at 5am at Half Moon Bay attended by the Minister of Transport Hon. Phil Twyford, and invited guests, including community representatives. This was followed by a community event at 8am at the Village Green Carpark in Kaikoura where hundreds turned out to celebrate. There were speeches, live music and a free breakfast.

The road opened just after 1pm and people started to make the journey down from Clarence in the north and up from Mangamaunu in the south for the first time in 13 months. Many had been queuing up for hours, excited to make the trip through.

While the re-opening of the road is an exciting time for travellers, the NZ Transport Agency encourages sightseers keen to see the new road to plan a trip for a later date. 'We expect the road to be very busy and want to ensure we can keep traffic moving through local communities safely, and allow people to reach Kaikoura and other destinations as easily as possible,' says the Transport Agency's Earthquake Recovery Manager Tim Crow.

Most of the NCTIR crew will be taking a well-deserved Christmas break. This will reduce the number of worksites and help with traffic flow over the holidays. The 'orange army' will be back in force on 8 January to continue bringing the road corridor back to its pre-earthquake condition and to deliver on the Government's \$231 million improvements package which will bring further tourism and economic benefits to the region.



Dawn ceremony at 5am



Waiting for the road to open at Clarence

Mother and daughter Phyllis Papworth and Gayle Rae attended the community road opening event this morning.

'I would like to personally acknowledge and thank all the workers who have been involved, it is just awesome how they worked together' said Phyllis.

Gayle says she feels like she has been living in a bubble and now the road is open to go north the bubble has been burst!

SH1 north of Kaikoura opened today, connecting the coastal corridor

To help keep traffic moving safely please plan any sightseeing trips for a later date, we expect the road to be very busy!





HIDDEN ARMIES

Each week in a 38-hour window, three crews of four NCTIR superstars have speedily toiled away replacing damaged bearings on the Clarence River Rail Bridge.

Temporary repairs replacing six shattered bearings, bracing others and tying the whole truss structure to the piers was completed earlier this year so trains could run again on the Main North Line railway. A permanent solution was always required as every one of the 48 bearings needed replacement and two steel trusses had to be jacked and moved to fix rail alignment issues.

Working since September, the crew is on target to replace the bearings, weighing about half a tonne each, by the end of this year. 'To get this job done we need good communication, good planning, innovation, patience and commitment,' says Site Engineer, Marion Guerreiro.

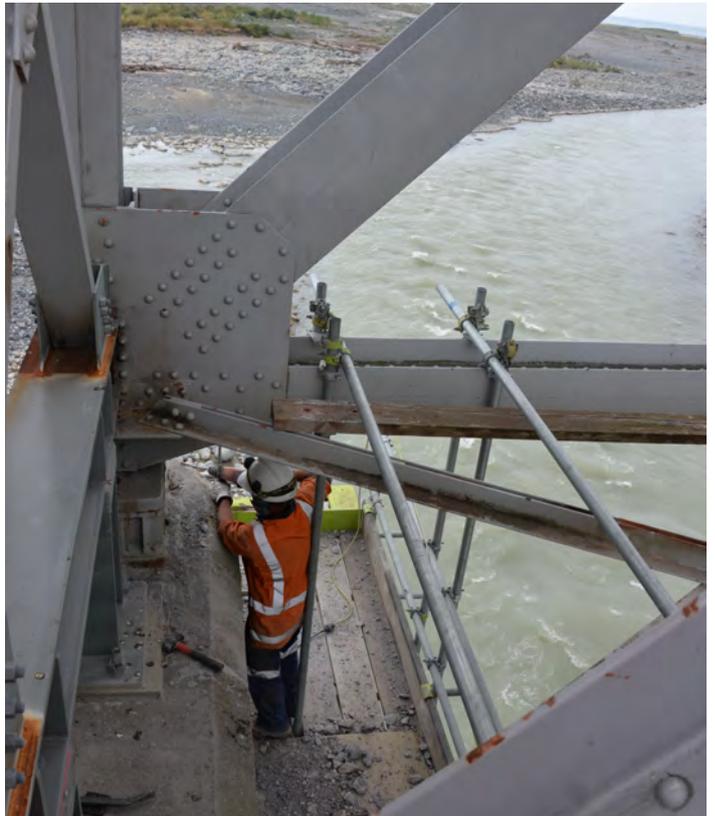
From 4am Sunday morning to 6pm Monday, while no trains run, the teams replace four bearings with high levels of accuracy in mechanical and civil engineering. Two teams descend at 4am on to scaffolding, four-metre-high on the bridge's piers, working in close proximity to each other with a wire saw to remove the original bearings.

The next crew start at 2pm to core 1m deep bore holes for the replacement bearings anchor bolts. The removal team returns, becoming the installation team from 1am.

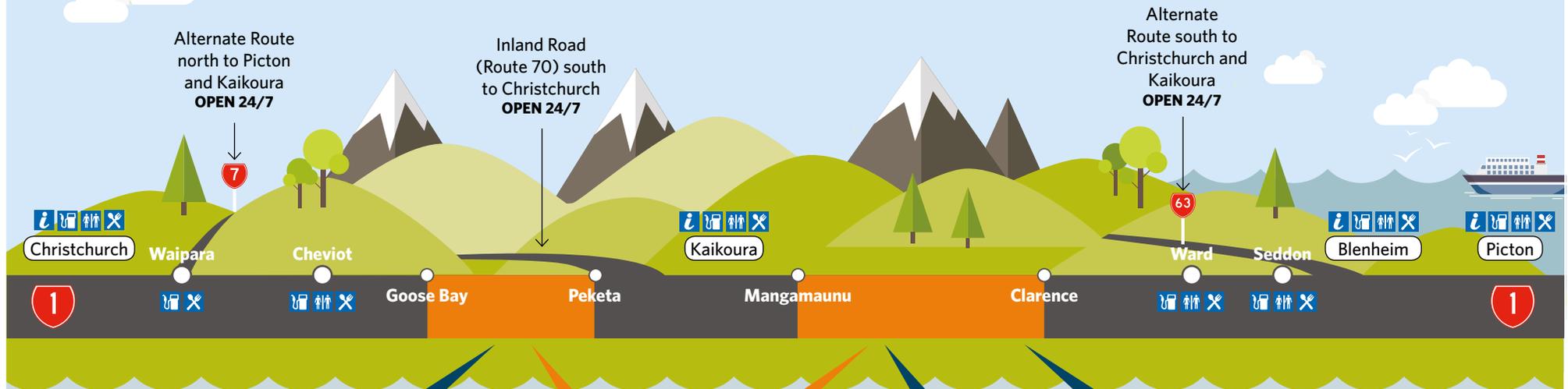
'The more experience we've had with replacing bearings the quicker we've become, but you still get some seized rusty pins difficult to remove, and occasionally 4am machine breakdowns with no mechanic up early enough to respond,' says Marion.

While out of the public eye, the work is vital to allow trains to pass over at speed. 'Doing a repair job in a remote location hidden under a bridge, you can sometimes feel a little forgotten. I am proud of the work our teams have done and I am sure the community is too,' says Marion.

NCTIR Structures Manager, David Wyeth says the crew hasn't gone under his radar. 'I am incredibly impressed how our teams have got on with the job, working so well together. It's not an easy job, or environment, or hours, but each week they deliver a stellar job. The attention to achieving minute tolerances, innovation around set-out, and speed of installation has been fantastic to be part of.'



Infoguide: What to expect when travelling on State Highway 1 between Picton and Christchurch



EXPECT DELAYS: Cliff face stabilisation and road rebuilding

OPEN daily 7am-8.30pm,
CLOSED every night for safety
NO STOPPING OR OVERNIGHT CAMPING.

EXPECT DELAYS: Irongate - new overbridge build and road realignment

EXPECT DELAYS: Ohau Point - new seawall build and road realignment

- Information site
- Petrol
- Restrooms
- Food

Fishing restrictions

SH1 TRAVEL TIME: MINIMUM of 5.5 hours between Picton and Christchurch. Allow plenty of extra time in case of unexpected delays.



For real-time travel information, visit www.nzta.govt.nz/p2c or freephone **0800 4 HIGHWAYS (0800 44 44 49)**.

What happened here?

A 7.8 magnitude earthquake hit Kaikoura in November 2016 which damaged and closed this road. While it reopened in December 2017, there is still a lot of construction work to do in 2018.



NO OVERNIGHT CAMPING
NO STOPPING OUTSIDE OF DESIGNATED AREAS
 Safe stopping bays will be sign posted



What to expect on SH1

The road will still be under construction, so expect:

Some unsealed surfaces

Lane closures with Stop/Go controls

Speed restrictions

Two sections closed every night for safety
Open daily*
7am-8.30pm

Drive to the conditions: the weather, the road you're on, the vehicle you're in, the traffic around you, and your level of experience.

* SH1 opening could be affected by weather, emergencies or seismic activity

Who can use SH1

Cars (including vans, 4wd, 2wd cars)

Motorcyclists (take extra care on unsealed and uneven surfaces)

Vehicles towing caravans, boats and trailers

Campervans

Trucks (restrictions apply)

Bus/coach

Cyclists (take extra care on unsealed and uneven surfaces.)
Cyclists may need assistance or be escorted in some areas. Stop at closure points, follow road crew instructions on the day.

Pedestrians

NO CAMPING (within closure areas)

Sightseeing and recreational activities

Limited recreation activities available long the closure zones this summer. Please follow all signs and instructions: they are designed to keep everyone safe.

- Ohau Stream:** Closed ✗
- Nin's Bin:** Open ✓
- Surfing:** Access to surf spots ✓
- Fishing:** Shellfish and seaweed fishing closure ✗



Be road courteous

- **Be patient and cautious.** Road conditions will be unfamiliar to many drivers, so a little bit of patience will go a long way.
- **Follow all traffic signs** and any **instruction** given by road crew.
- **Obey speed limits** to keep all road users safe.
- Stay focused around rail lines. **Expect trains at any time.**
- **Keep fresh by taking breaks** and supporting communities on the route.

SH1 status today?

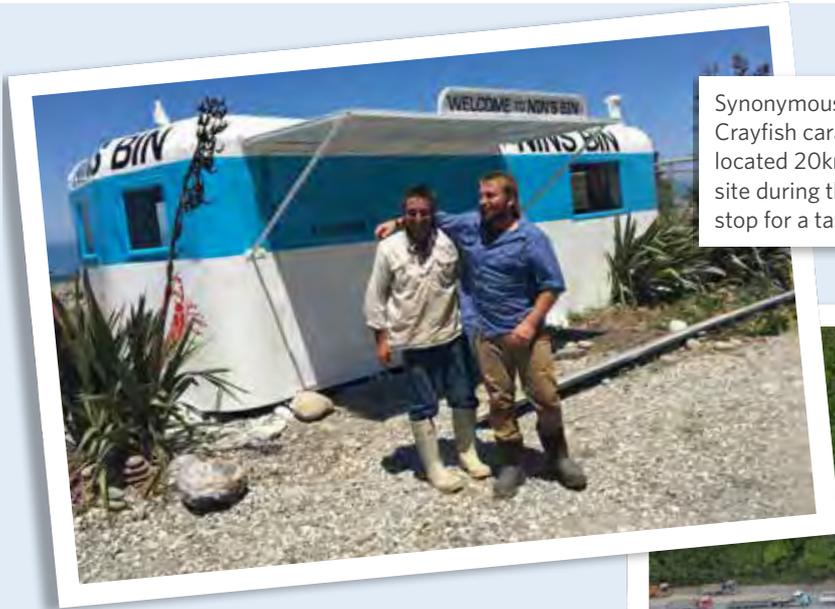
Always visit www.nzta.govt.nz/p2c or freephone **0800 4 HIGHWAYS** (0800 44 44 49) at least 2 hours before your travel and at key decision points.

The NZ Transport Agency has endeavoured to ensure this content is accurate. However, details may change over time. Correct as of December 2017.



WHAT YOU WILL SEE ON THE ROAD

While journeying north and south of Kaikoura you will recognise a number of sights still the same, but there will be some changes and new additions to the road. Here's a few snippets of what you can expect to see:



Synonymous with the Kaikoura Coast is Nins Bins Crayfish caravan. A local institution since 1997 located 20km of Kaikoura. Nins Bin became a work site during the road rebuilding, but is open again so stop for a taste of the sea!



In some places you may see stockpiles or worksites away from the roadside. We aim to keep these tidy and without causing distraction to road users. Workers will be back on site from 8 January to continue their work on the road and rail, working out of these sites.

You will see some shipping containers on the side of the road. These are to protect the rail and roads from potential landslide materials.



Irongate Bridge, the fastest seven-span bridge build in New Zealand. The bridge has been moved across the rail line, closer to the coastline. There is a new seawall to the north which the bridge lands on, and a slightly reshaped rocky bluff to the south. This has allowed for a straighter, safer road alignment.



You will notice changes to the coastal landscape as the seabed has lifted up to five metres in some places. One particular spot where you may notice the out-of-sea white and light coloured rocks is Half Moon Bay north of Kaikoura.



COMMENTARY ON THE SEAS

In the lead up to State Highway 1 reopening, excitement has been building within the wider community, with locals and tourists alike looking forward to checking out the progress north of Kaikoura.

After last year's earthquake, Kaikoura ITM hired a Dolphin Encounter boat to check out the damage. Last week they returned, one year after their previous visit and this time with a NCTIR guide on board.

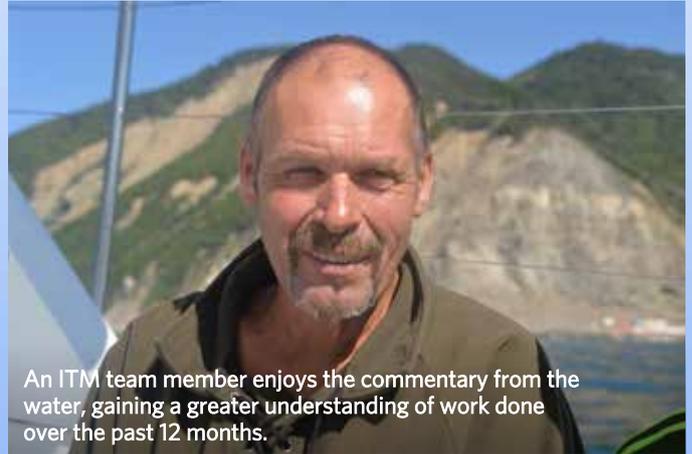
NCTIR Communications Advisor, Marcus Gibbs provided commentary outlining the many challenges and successes faced as hundreds of workers pushed to get the road open in the lead up to today.

ITM Manager Richard Cotter was blown away by the recovery work.

'Holey moley, it was incredible seeing the raw state 12 months ago and then seeing it again today. The work that has been done to get the road and rail open is just phenomenal.'

Over the last three weeks, NCTIR have taken more than 160 people to see the damage first hand on the NCTIR Express bus tours. However, Richard says from the water the scene is completely different.

'You can see the enormity of the job much more clearly; you get a better view of the scale and size of the damage from the ocean. You can also see the amazing seawall taking shape and rising out of the ocean.'



An ITM team member enjoys the commentary from the water, gaining a greater understanding of work done over the past 12 months.



The team discuss the recovery work with a view of Ohau Point in the background.



RIDING A MOTORBIKE OR BICYCLE ALONG STATE HIGHWAY 1 (SH1)

There are going to be checkpoints at Goose Bay, Peketa, Mangamaunu and Clarence where cyclists and motorcyclists will be asked to pull over. Crew will be on hand to give advice and instructions on the road conditions that day to help everyone travel safely. Cyclists should expect to be assisted through by our crew.

These are areas of significant ongoing construction where you should expect:

- Sharing the road with lots of large construction vehicles
- Unsealed sections and loose gravel
- Single lanes with restrictions
- Signposted NO stopping areas (for safety)
- Signposted stopping areas - the ONLY places to safely pull over for a break
- Speed restrictions
- Two sections closed at night 8.30pm - 7.00am - no overnight stopping (see map)

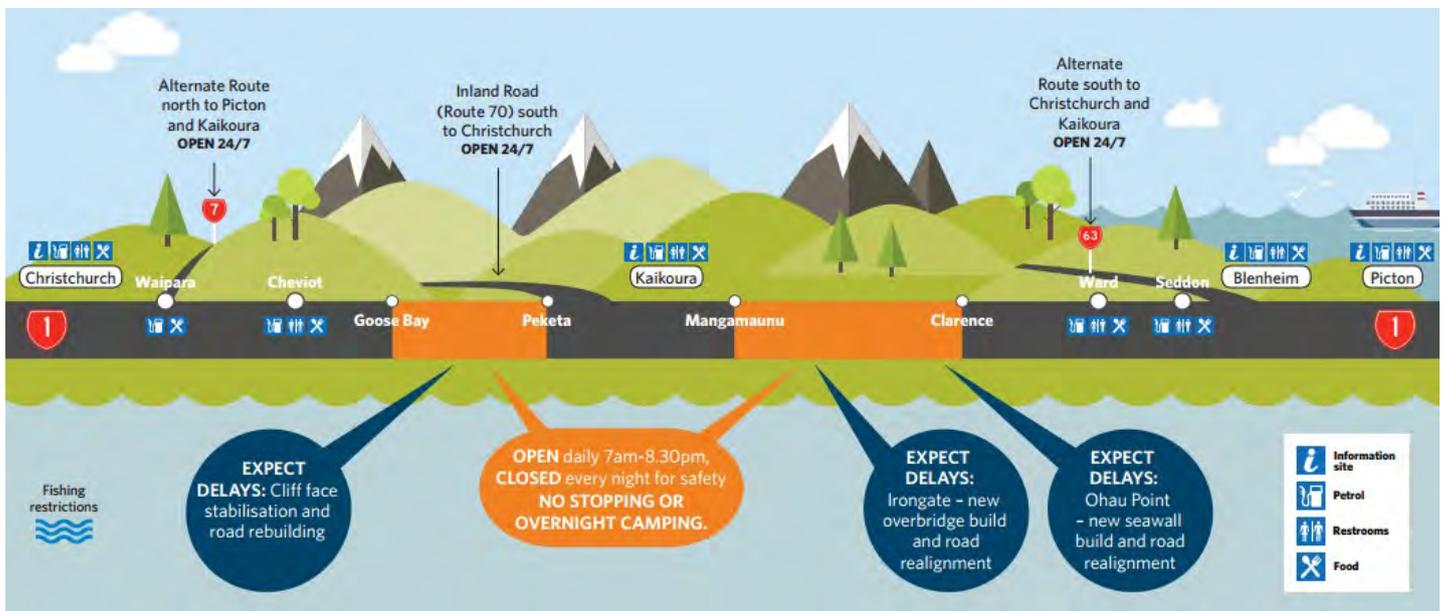
Please obey all instructions, signage and only travel in the designated areas.



Cyclists (take extra care on unsealed and uneven surfaces.) **Cyclists may need assistance or be escorted in some areas. Stop at closure points, follow road crew instructions on the day.**



Motorcyclists (take extra care on unsealed and uneven surfaces)



- Information site
- Petrol
- Restrooms
- Food

Driving between Picton and Christchurch?

Make sure you're up to date with the latest information on available routes for your travel.

Go to www.nzta.govt.nz/p2c, call **0800 4 HIGHWAYS** (0800 44 44 49) or pick up a brochure.

Allow plenty of time for travel in case of unexpected delays.

Enjoy your trip!





STATE HIGHWAY 1: NEW OPENING TIMETABLE

SH1 NORTH OF KAIKOURA: MANGAMAUNU TO CLARENCE

OPEN HOURS Open daily 7am to 8.30pm
Closed overnight for safety - no stopping or overnight camping.

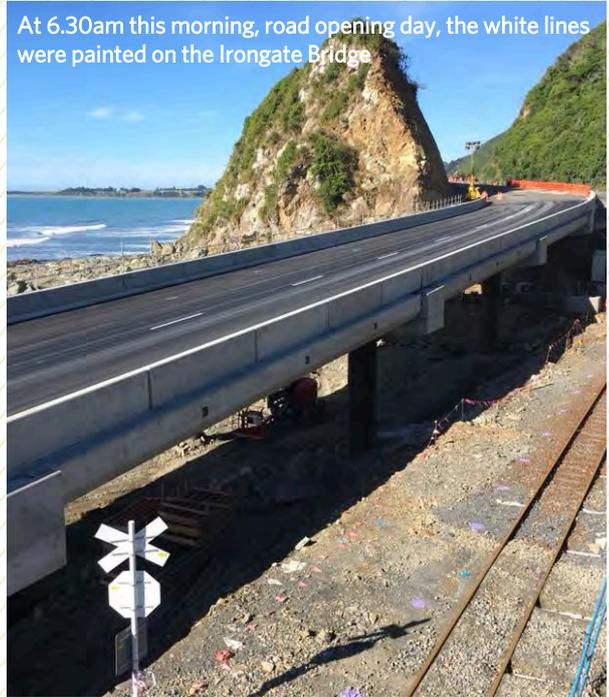
STATUS Normal schedule

SH1 SOUTH OF KAIKOURA: GOOSE BAY TO PEKETA

OPEN HOURS Open daily 7am to 8.30pm
Closed overnight for safety - no stopping or overnight camping.

STATUS Normal schedule

At 6.30am this morning, road opening day, the white lines were painted on the Irongate Bridge



IMPORTANT BEFORE YOU TRAVEL

Check routes are open and get estimated travel times.

For real-time travel information visit www.nzta.govt.nz/p2c or freephone **0800 4 HIGHWAYS** (0800 44 44 49).

Make sure you allow enough time for your journey, whichever route you chose. Unexpected events, such as a crash, high volumes of traffic, ongoing wet weather or seismic activity, can cause delays. Ongoing roadworks and reduced speed limits in places mean that it won't be possible for you to make up time. Be prepared with food, water and a fully charged cell phone.



* Conditions can change any time, so it is important to check the current status at least two hours before you travel and at key route decision points.

Do not rely on your GPS or Google Maps - things can change at short notice.

State Highway 1 north of Kaikoura opened today, connecting the coastal corridor.

To help keep traffic moving safely, please plan any sightseeing trips for a later date - we expect the road to be very busy!



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Please note: this phone and email box will not be monitored regularly from 23 December 2017 to 8 January 2018.