

A modern fire protection deluge system is being installed in the Lyttelton Tunnel to improve safety for all tunnel users.

This \$28.7 million project is being delivered by the NZ Transport Agency on behalf of the government, and will take up to 17 months to complete.

As the main road link to Lyttelton Port of Christchurch, the South Island's major freight and distribution hub, if a significant fire could close the tunnel for some time, it would have a massive impact on Christchurch, Canterbury and the South Island.

A deluge system is the most effective way of managing fire risk in the Lyttelton Tunnel. The system that will be installed is designed to control and contain a blaze until fire services reach the scene.



Tunnel interior.



A heavy motor vehicle leaving the Christchurch entrance of the tunnel.



View from the tunnel entrance over Lyttelton Harbour.

What you need to know

- A new fire protection deluge system provides increased safety for all tunnel users.
- Installation work will be done late at night or in the early morning, when tunnel traffic is at its lightest, in order to minimise delays for motorists.
- It is expected that a maximum of 15 nights full closure and a maximum of 60 nights of single lane closure will be required.
- This is a complex job and some disruptions for tunnel users are expected. These will be publicised well in advance of them occurring.
- Tunnel access for emergency services will be maintained at all times.

Where to go for information

- www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/lyttelton-tunnel
- www.highwayinfo.govt.nz/traffic/regions
- www.tfc.govt.nz
- www.facebook.com/nztasouthisland and Twitter: twitter.com/NZTACWC
- Call 0800 4 HIGHWAYS (0800 44 44 49)
- Register for traffic updates at www.onthemove.govt.nz
- Call 0508 MCD COMMS (0508 62326667) or email lytteltonunnel@mcdgroup.com