



There's been 391 crashes on the road from Hamilton to Raglan in the last 10 years*. Five people have died and 64 have been seriously injured. Something has to change, so we're improving the road to make it safer for everyone.

After speaking with locals, community organisations and transport groups, we're now ready to start adding safety features that will prevent people losing their lives and being seriously injured in crashes.

*between 2005 and 2015

Works to start between Waitetuna and Raglan

Work to improve safety on the section of road between Waitetuna and Raglan will get underway later this month.

We'll make minor safety improvements to the 21 km stretch of road before winter sets in, ahead of more substantial works towards the end of the year.

Rumble strips and three short sections of safety barrier will be installed on the roadside over the next couple of months. These works will cause minimal disruption to traffic, but please take care when travelling the route and abide by the temporary speed limits to ensure everyone's safety.

If the weather remains fine, this work should be completed by July.

Work to start late 2017

We'll add the bulk of the safety improvements between Waitetuna and Raglan after winter. Shoulders will be widened in areas where there is a high risk

of vehicles running off the road, and better signs alerting drivers to oncoming risks will be installed. We received a lot of feedback about safety at intersections from the community, so we'll also be improving some intersections. More pull over bays for slower vehicles may also be built.

Intersection improvements

Waitetuna Valley Road: We'll resurface the intersection and the SH23 curve with high friction asphalt surfacing.

Okete Road (east) at Te Uku: We'll provide a wide flush median to make it safer for traffic to turn right into Okete Road where Te Uku School, the store and café are located.

Te Mata Road: Roadside banks will be trimmed back to increase visibility to the east.

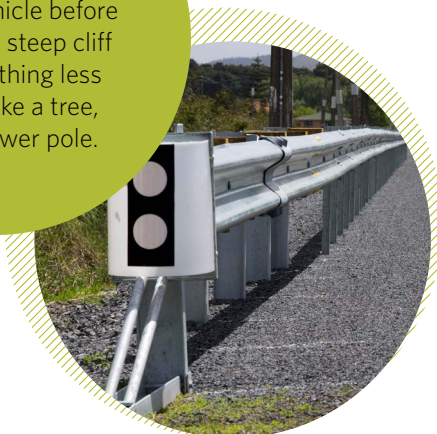
Visit www.nzta.govt.nz/sh23 for an overview map of the works.

Next steps

The next stage of the programme will get underway early next year, when work begins between Hamilton and Highbrook Way.

Safety barriers

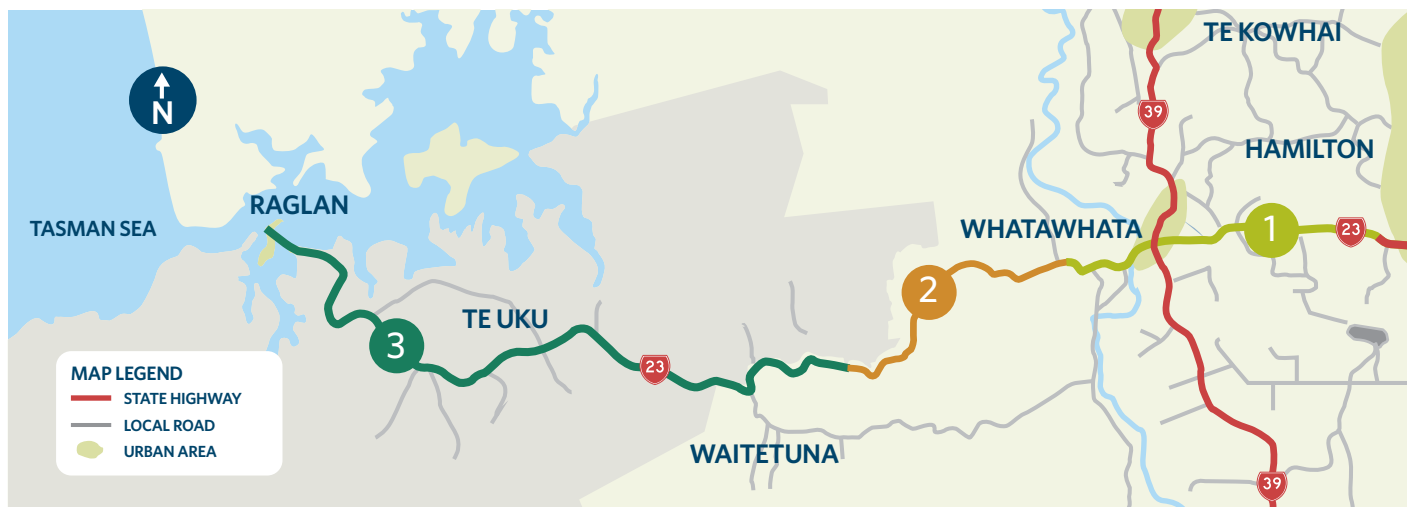
Roadside safety barriers stop your vehicle before you run off a steep cliff or hit something less forgiving, like a tree, ditch or power pole.



Protection for motorcyclists

The road to Raglan is a popular route for motorcyclists, so in some high-risk locations we'll fit safety barriers with an additional safety rail. The rail is designed to stop riders hitting a guardrail post if they come off their motorcycle.

How work is progressing on the three sections



Section 1: Between Hamilton and Highbrook Way	Section 2: Between Highbrook Way and Waitetuna	Section 3: Between Waitetuna and Raglan
<p>Design for this section is underway. Construction is likely to begin early in 2018. Improvements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > roadside safety barriers in high-risk areas to stop vehicles running off the road > wide centrelines and rumble strips in areas to reduce head-on crashes > making the road safer for motorcyclists. 	<p>We are still looking at options to improve safety on this section.</p>	<p>Minor safety improvements start this month. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > installing short sections of roadside safety barrier > rumble strips. <p>More substantial improvements will get underway later in the year. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > shoulder widening at high-risk locations > improved signage > making the road safer for motorcyclists > roadside safety barriers in high-risk areas to stop vehicles running off the road > minor intersection improvements.

Making rural roads safer

This project is part of the Safe Roads and Roadsides programme underway to make New Zealand rural roads safer. The programme aims to prevent deaths and serious injuries through relatively simple measures such as rumble strips, shoulder widening, safety barriers, better signage and changes to speed limits.



Get in touch

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