



Whanganui to Bulls safety improvements

Kia whakahaumarū tēnei rori

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency is working towards a future where no one is hurt or killed on our roads.

To help achieve this, we're identifying roads across Aotearoa New Zealand where safety improvements can help save lives. State Highway 3 (SH3) between Whanganui and Bulls is a key route for locals, tourists, and freight but too many people are being killed or seriously injured in crashes while travelling it. Our priority is to make this a safer stretch of road as soon as possible so that everyone living on and using this section of SH3, can get where they are going safely.

Last year we undertook a study to understand which types of safety improvements would work best for this road. We identified that adding sections of flexible median barrier to the route would be very effective at reducing deaths and serious injuries.

We are planning to make improvements between Turakina and Bulls first. We're currently investigating where we can install sections of median barrier and locations for facilities where people can turnaround once the barrier is installed.

From 2018 to 2022, five people died and 23 were seriously injured in crashes on SH3 between Whanganui and Bulls. All of the crashes where people died were head on crashes.

Why are you installing median barrier along the route?

Flexible median barriers put a barrier between you and an oncoming car, truck or motorcycle. This means if someone loses control or drifts across the centreline, the result isn't a deadly head-on crash. We know median barriers are very effective, because of the number of times they get hit. Every time this happens, a potentially fatal or serious crash has been prevented.

All of the fatal crashes on SH3 between Whanganui and Bulls in the last five years were head-on crashes so median barriers will help make this route significantly safer for everyone using it.

Where will I turnaround when median barrier is installed?

Where there are median barriers, you may need to drive a little further to turn right. We will leave gaps in the barriers and provide safe places to turn where possible. It's about finding the balance between convenience and protecting everyone.

If you live along the route, we'll come and speak to you about how you access your property and how you may be impacted before any barrier is installed.

What happens next?

Soon we'll be undertaking further investigations on the ground and speaking to residents and property owners about median barrier and how this may impact them. You may see some work, such as road widening to allow for median barrier to be installed, happening from July 2023.



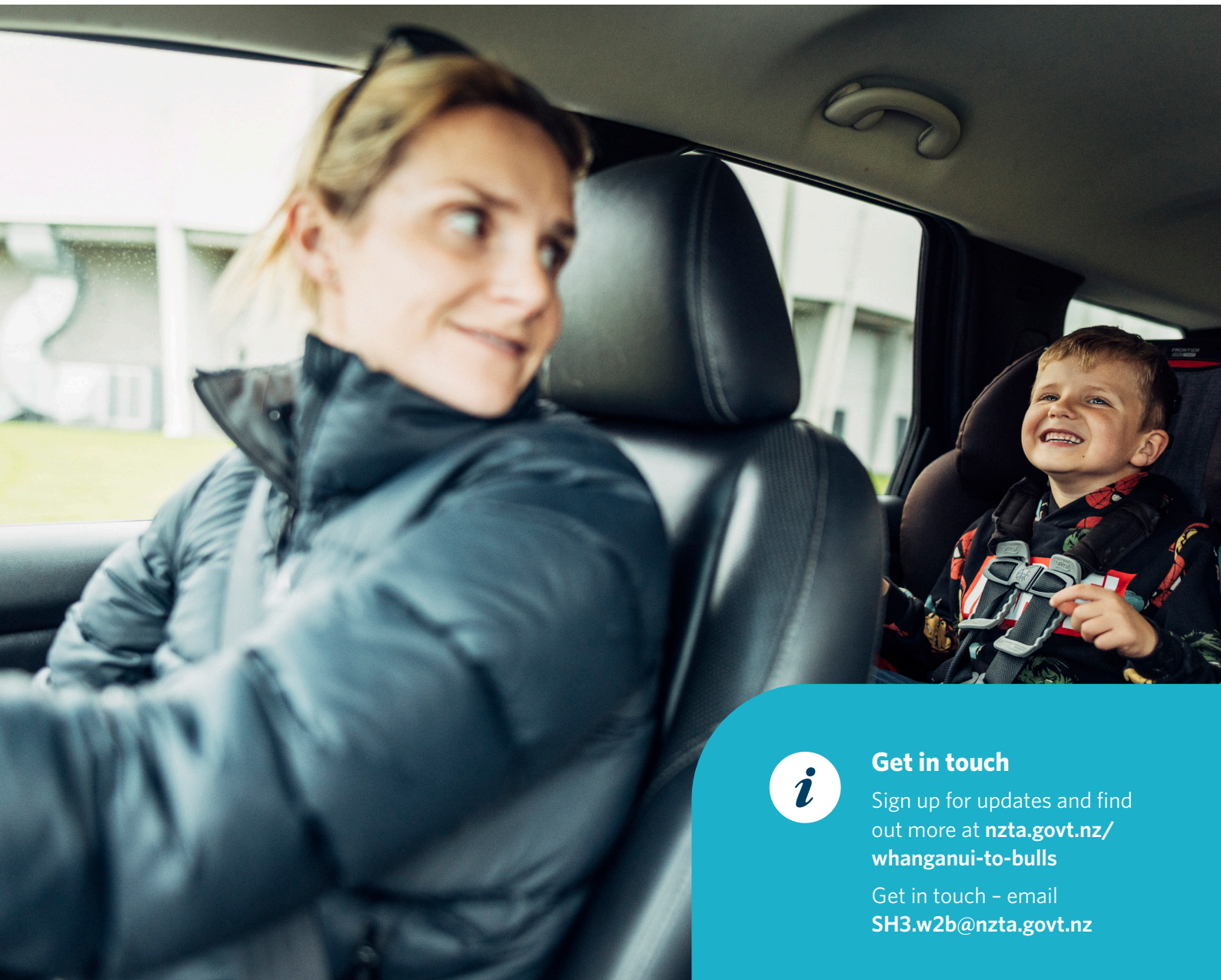
Road to Zero - our Road Safety Strategy

SH3 Whanganui to Bulls safety improvements are delivering to Road to Zero, our road safety strategy. Road to Zero sets us on a path to achieve Vision Zero, an Aotearoa where no one is killed or seriously injured on our roads. As a step towards Vision Zero, the Road to Zero strategy sets an initial target of reducing deaths and serious injuries by 40% by 2030.

To do this we need to create a safe transport system; one that recognises humans make mistakes and is designed so that these mistakes do not need to cost us our lives. Steady progress towards this target would mean approximately 750 fewer people would be killed and 5,600 fewer would be seriously injured on our roads by 2030.

Road to Zero sets a delivery target of 1,000km of median barrier across Aotearoa New Zealand's roads by 2030, including on both state highways and local roads.

Through Road to Zero, approximately 100km of median barrier has been installed on state highways, and 40km of median barrier either in or about to begin construction shortly. New projects will cover an additional 30-80km of median barrier to meet an overall target of between 170km and 220km operational or in construction by mid-2024.



Get in touch

Sign up for updates and find out more at nzta.govt.nz/whanganui-to-bulls

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