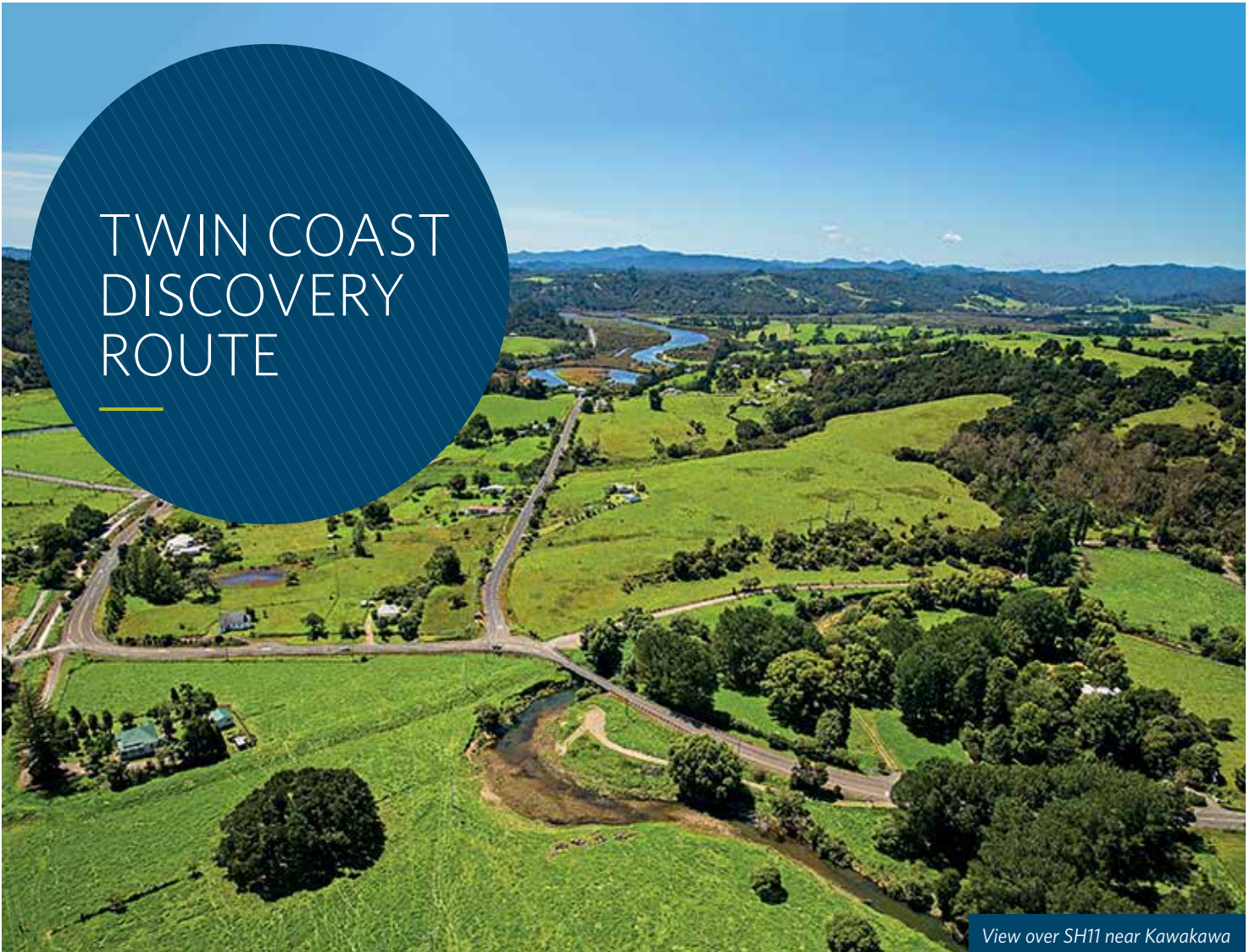


TWIN COAST DISCOVERY ROUTE



View over SH11 near Kawakawa

Tourism is a big part of Northland's economy. By improving the transport network here, the Twin Coast Discovery Route will make travel for visitors and locals safer and easier, as well as enabling future growth and development of the region. The Twin Coast Discovery Route is an important connection for the communities who use the route for business, leisure and commuting on a daily basis.

The Twin Coast Discovery Highway is an 800km circular touring route of both the east and west coasts of Northland, connecting key tourist attractions and communities.

Work in 2016-2017 identified improvements to the route to help grow Northland's economy, through safer, reliable and accessible journeys.

On 1 June 2018, the Government announced funding via the Provincial Growth Fund (PGF) to further investigate seven business cases for improving the Twin Coast Discovery Route.

These seven business cases aim to improve:

- Safety
- Resilience
- Network efficiency between different road users - locals, freight, coaches, cyclists
- Wayfinding signage and tourism opportunities
- Off road cycle facilities
- Stopping places and rest areas.

PGF funding for the Twin Coast Discovery Route is for the development of the seven business cases and will require further funding for implementation.

WHAT IS THE PROVINCIAL GROWTH FUND (PGF)?

The Government has allocated three billion dollars over three years to invest in regional economic development through the Provincial Growth Fund (PGF). The Government is committed to unlocking the full potential of regional Aotearoa.

Through the Provincial Growth Fund and other initiatives, the Government will support our regions so all New Zealanders, town or city, can fully participate in an economy that is sustainable, inclusive and productive.

SEVEN BUSINESS CASES FOR IMPROVING THE TWIN COAST



Kawakawa main street



Kaikohe main street



Wayfinding signage

There are seven business cases underway along the Twin Coast Discovery Route. Five of these are regionwide and two are located on SH11 and SH12.

1. Passing and overtaking opportunities

Safety is a top priority and a lack of safe passing and overtaking opportunities is identified as a problem along the Twin Coast Discovery Route. Investigations will include looking at more passing and overtaking opportunities and safe turning zones. These could include, wider shoulders and wider bays which are designed to support the needs of commercial operators such as tourist coaches and heavy haulage vehicles.

2. Rest area implementation plan

The primary purpose of rest areas is somewhere you can park safely, get out of or off your vehicle, and refresh before continuing your journey. Rest areas are an important safety feature for the state highway network and the project team is currently looking at additional rest areas along the Twin Coast Discovery Route.

3. Integrated Northland cycle plan

To help Northland further develop regional walking and cycling opportunities, the Transport Agency is working with local councils and other organisations to evaluate potential routes. Possible routes are likely to follow existing infrastructure, such as quiet country roads, old railway formations and tracks. Enhancements to the Pou Herenga Tai cycle trail are also being looked at.

4. Township plans

Ten township plans (including Opononi and Omapere which will be investigated within the SH12 Rawene to Katui Road business case) are underway to encourage more visitors to stop during their journey, thus helping benefit local communities. Township plans are also looking at improving safety, access and amenities for communities severed by state highways. These towns include Awanui, Horeke, Rawene, Kohukohu, Dargaville, Kaikohe, Kawakawa and Moerewa.

5. Wayfinding implementation plan

Wayfinding signage will assist visitors to find attractions and explore more of Northland by getting off the beaten track.

The Wayfinding implementation plan will include new road signage, localised wayfinding and digital technology such as interactive maps and touring apps.

Where to from here?

All business cases are underway and expected to be completed by the end of 2019.

Information on business case development will be provided on our website.

6. SH11 Kawakawa to SH10 Puketona

A 30km stretch of state highway from the SH1 intersection at Kawakawa to the SH10 intersection at Puketona. The Transport Agency has been working with hapu partners and key stakeholders to identify a long list of options to improve safety and resilience along this corridor and to investigate opportunities for economic growth.

These include:

- Improvements to reduce the number of closures (due to unplanned events such as slips)
- Improving access to Paihia, Waitangi and the Bay of Islands
- Providing safer opportunities for walking and cycling to and within Paihia, Waitangi and SH11.



7. SH12 Rawene to Katui Road

A number of focus areas have been identified along this 55km section of state highway, including:

- Town centre improvements for Opononi and Omapere, including better connections to the beach
- Improvements along the corridor to reduce closures (due to unplanned events such as slips)
- Signage and wayfinding improvements.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Community events will take place in the coming months to present where we are up to with the following investigations:

- SH11 Kawakawa to SH10 Puketona
- SH12 Rawene to Katui Road
- Township plans

Community events will be promoted via local media and on our website: www.nzta.govt.nz/twin-coast-discovery-route



Kaikohe township

STAY INFORMED

If you would like to receive email updates from the team, visit our website and sign up by entering your name and email address in the 'subscribe to updates' box.

Alternatively, send us an email or call the freephone number to get more information.

CONTACT

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To request a translation of this information please email northlandproject@nzta.govt.nz or call 0800 44 44 49.

Ki te hiahia kia reo Maori tenei panui, tuku imera ki northlandproject@nzta.govt.nz waea atu ranei ki 0800 44 44 49.