

National Land Transport Programme 2009-12
West Coast



What has been happening in West Coast

The past 18 months has been a challenging time for the region, with all sectors of the West Coast economy facing a variety of challenges. We are pleased that we were able to provide some limited relief to the consultant and contracting sector through timely investment in a number of state highway projects and funding for a number of regionally significant projects during this period.

The major highlights have been the completion of several projects to improve freight efficiency and network safety, and to enhance the access for tourism-related activities on the coast. The NZTA's completion of the replacement Arahura road rail bridge, in conjunction with KiwiRail and several months ahead of schedule, highlighted the ability of the 'coast' community to work together to deliver a complex project for the benefit of road users and the community while protecting significant environmental and cultural values.

Similarly, the completion of the sealing of the Fox and Franz Josef Glaciers access roads by the Department of Conservation marked a milestone in bringing these routes to a standard appropriate for the tourism numbers being accommodated. These have been complemented by the recently completed Franz Josef walkway/cycleway, with the Fox walkway/cycleway to be completed in January 2011. These projects demonstrate vividly how transport infrastructure can be delivered in sensitive national park environments.

NLTP cash is tight and this is resulting in state highway projects being deferred nationally, including property purchase for the Gates of Haast Realignment project on the West Coast.

Achievements and highlights

- The NZTA has completed bridge replacements at Woolhouse Creek and Kokatahi (both SH6) and Goat Creek on SH73 and re-established the 10 Mile Creek bridge.
- The NZTA completed the major realignment on SH7 McKendries Corner (near Greymouth) and realignment at Kelly's Creek on SH73.
- Reconstruction of SH6 in Westport has been completed in two stages.
- The sealing of the Fox and Franz Josef Glacier access roads has been completed.
- The NZTA has commenced the design phase for the Gates of Haast project.
- Grey District has completed the first stage of the strengthening upgrade of Atarau Road and has contracted for the second stage.

Key messages

Nationally, there continues to be demand for funding above the level that can be accommodated within the NLTP. We urge all road approved organisations to actively manage the forecast out-turn for the three-year period and to continue to seek ways to create added value through smart procurement of all services. As signalled at the start of this NLTP period, not all projects scheduled in the NLTP would necessarily be approved for funding and only those projects achieving assessment ratings above priority ranking 3 are likely to be funded over the balance of this NLTP period and most likely continue into the next NLTP period.



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Total	\$14.4m
Spent/committed	\$7.6m
Planned	\$6.8m

Of the regionally distributed funds available to the West Coast to 2015, approximately \$6.8 million remain. The NZTA is planning to allocate this to the next highest priority activities to utilise the remaining funds. This could be on either local road or state highway projects.