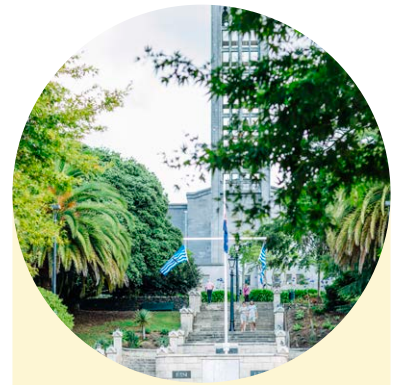


# Top of the South: Nelson, Tasman and Marlborough



Severe weather in the Top of the South in recent years has resulted in long-lasting infrastructure damage, placing the roading network under considerable strain. This has resulted in continued challenges as the region's economy needs a resilient roading network to support the productivity of its primary industries.

Work is ongoing to future-proof the state highway network, helping to provide a more resilient and reliable network to keep communities connected.

While population and urban growth are creating new economic opportunities, these are also adding extra pressure to the existing roading infrastructure. By 2048, the population is expected to grow 20,000 to 175,000, with the percentage of population having grown older than the national average.

Roading and rail lines running down the East Coast are key connections for freight and tourism between Picton and Christchurch, and the two islands. The ports in Picton and Nelson are important to transport goods to market.

## Economic growth and productivity

### Roads of National Significance (RoNS)

The Hope Bypass – a new route for traffic travelling on SH6 in Richmond – is proposed in the GPS as a strategic corridor to support economic growth and productivity. In this NLTP we'll start planning the new bypass, with construction starting in 2029. This will help reduce congestion in the lower Queen Street/Gladstone Road area, improve safety, support housing development, boost economic growth, and provide a more resilient roading network.

### Other

#### SH1 Picton Port access improvements

With the iRex programme winding down, we're working through the next steps for the transport network in Picton. The relocation of the Interislander terminal has impacted roads around Picton, so we're looking at what improvements are needed to ensure traffic is safely flowing through Picton. We're investigating the most appropriate options for improvements, and changes to the state highway and a number of intersections.

**\$479 million**

Forecast total investment

**\$161 million**

Forecast maintenance operations

**\$201 million**

Forecast pothole prevention

**\$99 million**

Forecast improvements

**\$11 million**

Forecast public transport

## Increased maintenance and resilience

### Maintenance

Increased funding to maintain and operate the state highway and local road networks enables significant road and drainage renewal programmes. Maintenance of existing assets ensures roads are safe and accessible for everyone to drive on.

### State highways

- \$51 million will be invested this NLTP period maintaining state highway assets.
- \$96 million is ringfenced for state highway pothole prevention.

This \$147 million investment includes 272 lane kilometres of works:

- 211kms of chipseal.
- 41kms of rehabilitation.
- 6kms of structural asphalt.
- 15kms of asphalt resurfacing.

### Local roads

With road controlling authorities in Nelson, Marlborough and Tasman we'll invest:

#### Marlborough

- \$23.1m will be invested in operations.
- \$41.3m is ringfenced for local road pothole prevention.
- \$40.6m for current approved emergency works.

#### Nelson

- \$19.8m will be invested in operations.
- \$13.7m is ringfenced for local road pothole prevention.
- \$8.6m for current approved emergency works.

#### Tasman

- \$23.2m will be invested in operations.
- \$50.7m is ringfenced for local road pothole prevention.

### Resilience

- The region continues to recover from damage caused by severe weather events in 2021 and 2022. Improving the resilience across the state highway network is a prime focus for the next NLTP period. This includes:

- **SH60 Tākaka Hill**
- **SH6 Dellovs Bluff**
- **Marlborough Sounds Future Access Road resilience improvements.**

### Rail

Rail network investment in this NLTP will be targeted to parts of the rail network where the most significant economic benefits and opportunities for boosting the productivity of freight movement exist. The Rail Network Investment Programme (RNIP) sets out planned network maintenance, management, renewal, and improvement work on the national rail network over a 3-year period. The next RNIP will be approved later in 2024 following further analysis.

### Public transport

Implementation of the **National Ticketing Solution** allowing public transport users to tag on and off with their contactless debit or credit card will be completed within this funding period.

### Safety

Planned safety works will continue at a reduced level to finish off sections already started, targeting high-risk areas on major corridors and not overlapping with planned major corridor upgrades in the future.

Delivery of an enhanced maintenance programme in 2024-27 will ensure maintenance funds are prioritised and ringfenced for road resealing, road rehabilitation and drainage maintenance which helps to make our roads safer.

A scaling up of our road renewal work will provide skid resistant surfaces; improve the maintenance of guardrails, barriers and signs; and allow for value for money safety retrofits at high-risk locations.

### SH6 Blenheim to Woodbourne safety improvements

The safety improvements are for two roundabouts on SH6. The first roundabout at SH6/Bells/St Leonard Roads intersection was completed within the NLTP 2021-24 period. A second roundabout at the SH6/Tancred Crescent intersection (outside Marlborough Airport) started construction in June 2024 and will be completed by February 2025.

### Value for money

Value for money isn't always about seeking the lowest initial cost for a project - it must also take into consideration the whole-of-life costs and benefits of a project.

We're taking steps to make sure that all our work this NLTP provides good value for taxpayers. In Nelson, Marlborough and Tasman this will include reducing expenditure on temporary traffic management, increased investment in road maintenance and a focus on whole-of-life costs.

We'll improve the productivity of maintenance and improvement works, by considering the way works are:

- scoped
- planned
- procured
- undertaken.

# Top of the South: Nelson, Tasman and Marlborough Te Taihū

## Key projects 2024-27

### Key

-  Economic growth and productivity
-  Maintenance and resilience
-  Safety
-  Roads of National Significance
-  Airport
-  Port
-  Key routes



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