

# KAIKOURA EARTHQUAKE UPDATE

WEEKLY BULLETIN

10 February 2017

This weekly bulletin is to give you the latest update on works happening to assist the recovery of road and rail routes damaged by the Hurunui/Kaikoura earthquakes in November 2016. The bulletin is provided by the North Canterbury Transport Infrastructure Recovery – an alliance representing the NZ Transport Agency and KiwiRail, on behalf of Government.

## OUR FOCUS: SH1 OPEN BEFORE CHRISTMAS 2017

We have a big task ahead of us to restore full access on SH1 north of Kaikoura before Christmas 2017. Opening the route as quickly, and as soon as possible, while keeping people safe, remains our top priority.

We continue to explore every opportunity to open SH1 between Blenheim and Kaikoura well before the end of the year, providing the same limited access we have been able to do south of Kaikoura.

During the next few weeks, our focus remains on completing detailed design work to ensure it meets construction and environmental standards, and that we balance protection of the environmental and cultural values in each of the areas.

By the end of this month we plan to release our construction programme. This will enable everyone – tourists, freight operators, businesses and the public – to begin planning, with confidence, their journeys and holidays for next summer.

## PROGRESS IN THE NORTH

Road and rail links north of Kaikoura to Picton remain closed. Our work recognises these networks are critical for getting your goods to market, bringing visitors to the region and providing access for the many local communities along the route.

### Latest update:

- Excavators begin work clearing slips to the north of Kaikoura from next week. A 20-tonne excavator has moved on-site and will begin clearing the slip at Irongate (site 2), about 1km north of Blue Duck Road, while a 40-tonne excavator will begin clearing the slip about 300m north of Ohau Point (site 7). In both locations, the narrow width of the corridor and for safety, only one digger is able to work on each slip face at this time. *For site locations refer to map on last page.*
- It is expected to take about three weeks to clear material from the Irongate slip and make it safe to build an access road around the site. This will enable the excavator to then move north, building access tracks around three other slips to reach Ohau Point.
- When made safe, these tracks will open up restricted access for Rakautara residents, who have been isolated between the slips since November, with very limited access.
- Slip clearance is also expected to get underway within the next couple of weeks at Ohau Point, one of the biggest and most complex slips along the route. Clearance of this slip will be by two remote-controlled diggers because of the slips still remain too unstable and dangerous for workers to be on-site at this stage.
- In the meantime, helicopter sluicing and rock removal continues on the remainder of the large slips, making these safe for clearance work to begin.
- Once material is cleared from the slips, work will begin repairing and rebuilding the road and rail networks to restore full access before Christmas.
- The team have met with the Rakautara and Clarence communities to update them of progress and discuss the challenges to keep everyone – residents and workers – safe during slip clearance work.

## SH1 SOUTH

State Highway 1 south of Kaikoura remains fragile. The highway is subject to on-going closures because of severe weather, seismic

activity, and road repair work. Travel on the route is restricted to daylight hours – 6am to 8pm.

### Latest update:

- Our crews have continued to make good progress with repairs in the Hundalees area, to improve both safety and the smoothness of the ride for a better travel experience.

## INLAND ROAD

Inland Road (Route 70) is now open 24/7 and remains a critical link for the Kaikoura community, with SH1 south open only during daylight hours.

### Latest update:

Good progress continued along the Inland Route this week. Our crews are progressing along the road, completing repairs and removing rock fall hazards, such as at the Whales Back Saddle (see photo below). This work is critical to get the road into the best possible condition before winter.



- Repair work has also begun rebuilding almost three kilometres of the Inland Route 70. This work will also be completed before winter.

## ALTERNATE SH1 ROUTE

Work on the alternate route (via Lewis Pass) is all about ensuring the route can cope with the extra traffic, along with making it safer and improving travel times.

### Latest update:

- Two Bailey bridges (temporary steel structures) were opened on State Highway 63, between St Arnaud and Kawatiri

Junction, this week. These will help improve safety and reduce travel times by enabling traffic to flow in both directions at all times over the two creeks where there are only single-lane bridges. These bridges are over the Upper Buller and Homestead Creeks. A third Bailey bridge over Speargrass Creek, in the same area, is expected to open later this month. All three will help eliminate delays from waiting to use the single-lane bridges, keeping all traffic moving.



- The team continues to investigate a variety of solutions for the remaining one-way bridges. These could include culverts, new bridges or more Bailey bridges, to improve the reliability of journey times.
- Work is underway rebuilding three sections of SH63 which have deteriorated with increased traffic volumes on the route. This work will help make it a better ride for everyone, as will the resealing programme that is happening elsewhere along the route.
- The emergency realignment work at Silvia Flats has been completed, making the road better able to cope with the heavier vehicles and last longer.

## RAIL NETWORK

The Main North Line between Picton and Christchurch is a critical part of the network for moving freight between the North and South Islands. Like the road network, NCTIR is still working through the design options and construction methodology to clear the slips safely and efficiently and to repair damaged structures and rails. KiwiRail has already re-opened the line between Spring Creek and Lake Grassmere.

## Latest update:

- There are 709 rail sites that have been identified on the line so far that require repairs. Work has already been completed on about 100 of these.
- Inspection of the rail assets on the Main North Line is substantially complete, with the exception of some areas between Haupuku and Clarence.
- Twenty tunnels have been identified as requiring repair.
- Surveyors are out in the field at numerous sites and geo-tech testing is underway to prepare for the major earthworks that will need to be carried out.
- Laser scanning has been carried out on several tunnels to determine the work that will need to be completed.
- A full design team has been engaged and is currently working on the design and planning of the recovery works over the line.
- Track work crews have continued with repairs to the rail line north of Spotswood and south of Grassmere, prepping the two sites for major bridge and earthworks.
- KiwiRail has track teams out of Blenheim, Kaikoura and Mina, working alongside local contractors. KiwiRail has also mobilised teams from throughout the country, including a team from Dunedin.



## KAIKOURA HARBOUR

Reinstatement of Kaikoura Harbour is crucial to restoring the economic prosperity of the town's tourism and fishing industries.

### Latest update:

- Work is well underway lowering the seabed floor, with three excavators in action, see photo below. This will ensure boats are able to access the wharf and boat ramp at all times.



## KEEP UP TO DATE

How to contact us and keep up to date with the NCTIR project:

- Subscribe to receive our weekly bulletin by emailing [info@nctir.com](mailto:info@nctir.com), with "Bulletin" in the subject line.
- Visit our website: [www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/kaikoura-earthquake-response/](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/kaikoura-earthquake-response/)
- Call our Freephone: **0800 NCTIR EQ** (0800 628 4737)
- Email us if you have a question: [info@nctir.com](mailto:info@nctir.com),
- Attending one of the community meetings, keep an eye on your local newspapers.
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# SH1 Kaikōura Coast remedial works

