
KAIKOURA EARTHQUAKE UPDATE

WEEKLY BULLETIN – no. 11

7 April 2017

This weekly bulletin provides the latest information about the rebuild of road and rail networks damaged by the Hurunui/Kaikoura earthquake in November 2016. The bulletin is produced by the North Canterbury Transport Infrastructure Recovery (NCTIR) – an alliance representing the NZ Transport Agency and KiwiRail, on behalf of Government. We're keen to hear your questions about our work, or any feedback on this bulletin. Drop us a line via email at info@nctir.com or give us a call on 0800 NCTIREQ (0800 628 4737) – we'd like to hear from you.

KEEP SAFE

Trains will soon be back operating on the Main North Line railway along parts of the South Island's east coast and everyone is being asked to take extra care at all level crossings.

These work trains are carrying ballast and other materials to the various work sites along the railway line for the repair and rebuild of the rail corridor.

With no trains on the rail line to the south of Kaikoura since the November 2016 earthquake, some people may have become complacent at level crossings. KiwiRail is asking that everyone stop and check the line before they cross. We need everyone to adopt their usual cautious driving behaviour at level crossings – be alert to stay safe.

WEATHER-RELATED CLOSURES

This week's heavy rain, from the tail of Cyclone Debbie, has again highlighted the fragility of the earthquake-damaged roads in the Kaikoura area, disrupting travel for much of this week. Unfortunately, the rain followed our eight-day closure of SH1 south of Kaikoura and prevented us from re-opening the highway as planned on Tuesday.

We acknowledge these closures have a significant impact on your lives and will continue to do so as we work to get the road network re-opened as quickly as we can. During the eight-day closure for emergency stabilisation work we made good progress. However, this recent heavy rain will have been a set-back.

Throughout winter, we expect we will continue to have access issues, with on-going closures as we ensure the safety of everyone – our crews and those travelling on SH1 south of Kaikoura and the Inland Road (Route 70). Our crews will work hard to minimise these disruptions but we will not take risks with people's lives.

To keep informed about road conditions and closures visit the website: www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/kaikoura-earthquake-response/ and follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/nztasouthisland/ for the latest information.

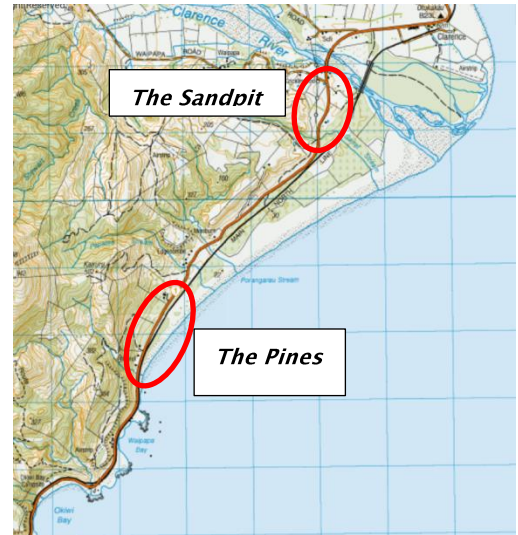
SH1 NORTH

Road and rail links north of Kaikoura to Picton remain closed. Access to the beach and the surrounding areas near our work sites will be restricted to the public at all times while construction work is underway. The focus is on getting the road and rail networks re-opened as quickly as possible.

- With the tail of Cyclone Debbie lashing the region, progress on the ground has been slower this week. Our crews have been monitoring the slips and undertaking work where possible.
- At Ohau Point (Site 6), excavators have continued to work on building a construction access track around the base of this massive slip. This will ensure that material can be removed safely from the area. *See photo right*



- The rebuild and construction of the new railway alignment near Mangamaunu is now underway.
- At the Pines, north of Waipapa Bay, new rail tracks will begin to be laid from early May, meanwhile at the Sandpit, south of the Clarence River, we're drilling to test ground conditions. *See map right*
- Along the coastal area, archaeological monitoring is being undertaken to ensure that if anything of historical and/or cultural importance is discovered, it is handled appropriately for preservation.



SH1 SOUTH

State Highway 1 south of Kaikoura remains fragile. Twenty-nine slips have been identified along this stretch of the highway as requiring further repair. The road remains subject to on-going closures because of repair work and bad weather. (For the latest travel information: <http://www.nzta.govt.nz/traffic/regions/11>)

- The opening hours on SH1 south of Kaikoura have been reduced with the end of Daylight Saving. The highway will now be open each day from Peketa to Oaro from 7am to 6pm. The change in sunrise and sunset hours at this time of the year makes it more difficult for our contractors to see what is happening on the slip faces above the road in the early morning and at dusk. In order to keep our contractors and everyone travelling on the route safe, we need to reduce the opening hours.
- During the eight-day planned closure of SH1 south of Kaikoura, between Peketa and Oaro, about 5000 tonnes of debris and boulders were removed from the various slip sites.
- The first phase of the Oaro overbridge strengthening work is now 65% complete and able to be used by the work trains being brought in to help with the repair of the rail corridor. The concrete column work, being undertaken under the bridge, will be completed late this month. Rebuilding the road approaches and guardrails begins in May.

MAIN NORTH LINE RAILWAY

The Main North Line railway (MNL) between Picton and Christchurch is a critical part of the network for moving freight between the North and South Islands. More than 1 million tonnes of freight is moved on the MNL each year.

- Work trains will soon begin operating between Christchurch and Ferniehurst – these are already operating on the Main North Line between Blenheim and Tar Barrel. The trains are carrying ballast and other materials to work sites along the railway. Everyone is asked to take extra care along the railway corridor.
- Work is currently underway at six tunnels along the coast. To the north of Kaikoura, near the fault line, tunnels 16 (near Blue Duck) and 18 (at Sands) are being strengthened, while to the south, work continues on portal repairs to tunnels one and two, and general repair work at tunnel six, south of Goose Bay.



- The final bridge span has now been installed at the temporary Rail Bridge (bridge 90), near Ferniehurst (see photo below left) and to the south we are in the last stages of securing the abutments under the Parnassus overbridge for work to begin on the deck repairs. (see photo below right)
- With the earthworks near Hawkeswood, just north of Parnassus, completed, the rail tracks have now been re-laid. See photo below right.



INLAND ROAD

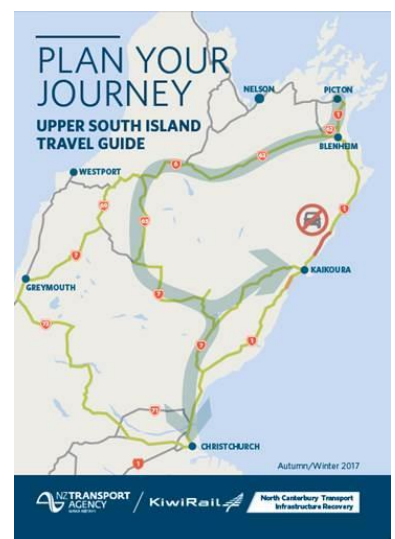
Inland Road (Route 70) is open 24/7 and remains a critical link for the Kaikoura community. We continue to complete repair work along the Inland Road to ensure the road will be in the best possible condition before winter.

- Slope stabilisation and rock fall mitigation work is underway at the Whalesback slip where abseiling teams will be removing loose rock from the slip face. Once this work is complete, our crews will begin putting bolts into the slip face to help with stabilisation. Two-way traffic will continue to use the temporary carriageway around this site.

ALTERNATE ROUTE – PICTON TO CHRISTCHURCH

The alternate route (via Lewis Pass) is continuously being improved through the use of new technology, such as mobile towers to reduce coverage black spots, webcams and radar to monitor what is happening to keep everyone safe, and road improvements to make the route safer and easier to travel on.

- Consultation started this week on making the temporary lower speed limits permanent. The lower speed limits were introduced on the alternate route (state highways 63, 6, 65 and 7) under emergency legislation. Consultation also includes a proposal to lower the speed limit on a section of the Lower Buller Gorge that links to the alternate route. This road is not included in the current emergency rule. More information is available on the NZ Transport Agency’s website, at <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/about-us/consultations/>
- Safety campaigns along the route are still being rolled out by the Transport Agency, in conjunction with the police, to highlight the dangers of driving on the route when tired.



- Work continues to make this route safer and able to cope with the greater traffic volumes during the winter months. This programme of work is expected to taper off in the next few weeks, improving journey times between Picton and Christchurch.
- Safety improvement projects will continue throughout winter and into spring. These improvements will be focused on the Springs Junction, Murchison, St Arnaud and Renwick townships.
- Police retain a strong presence along the route to help manage driver behaviour and speeds.

KAIKOURA HARBOUR

Reinstatement of Kaikoura Harbour is crucial to restoring the economic prosperity of the town's tourism and fishing industries. The marina has been raised by about a metre; work is focussed on deepening the harbour and resetting all the structures in the marina to the new depth.

- Dredging of the outer harbour is expected to start later this month.
- Whale Watch continues to operate from berth 4, rather than from a trailer. Dolphin Encounter continues to operate their daily services from within the harbour area, by using their trailer via the boat ramp.

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, with 'Bulletin' in the subject line.
- Visit our website: 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
- Attending one of the community meetings, keep an eye on your local newspapers.
- Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/nztasouthisland/ or www.facebook.com/kiwirailNewZealand/
- For travel information: <http://www.nzta.govt.nz/traffic/regions/11>

SH1 Kaikōura Coast remedial works

