

3

## Waitara to SH3A safety improvements

We're looking at ways to make State Highway 3 between Waitara and SH3A safer for everyone. We know people make mistakes, but there are changes we can make so that simple mistakes don't cost lives.

# Help us get it right





## Six people died and 11 were seriously injured on this stretch of road\*

Many of these crashes involved drivers running off the road and hitting trees, power poles and deep ditches. There have also been head-on and side-on crashes.

\*Between 2007 and 2016

### Something has to change

We know this road is an important connection for people – linking New Plymouth and Waitara and beyond. But some tricky intersections, speed and roadside dangers like poles or ditches mean it's unsafe.

We went out to the community earlier this year to hear how you think it could be made safer. Based on what you've told us, we're considering a range of possible safety improvements. We'd like to share these with you to make sure they're right for this stretch of road.

### What safety improvements could we make?

People make mistakes, but there are things we can do on this stretch of road to give them a second chance, making sure simple mistakes don't always cost lives. After looking at what you told us earlier this year, we are considering:

- » **Putting in roundabouts at high-risk intersections** along this road to slow down vehicles and make it safer for drivers to turn.
  - » **Changing some intersections** so there's no right turn in or out of roads off the highway. This can help prevent side-on crashes caused by drivers turning across the busy highway. It will also help prevent drivers from crashing into the back of vehicles that are waiting to turn right.
  - » **Putting flexible road safety barriers** along the side of the road in places where the risk of a crash is high. These catch drivers who leave their lane before they hit something harder like a pole, tree or ditch.
  - » **A single 80km/h speed limit** for this whole stretch of road. A lower speed limit can help prevent crashes. It also means that if they do happen, people are less likely to be killed or seriously injured. Currently there are several speed limits along this stretch, and we've heard that this is confusing.
  - » **Widening the road shoulder** so drivers have room to recover if they make a mistake. This will also mean there's room for slower vehicles like tractors to pull over so others can pass.
  - » **Widening the centreline** so there's more space between you and oncoming vehicles. This also means there's more space to recover if drivers make a mistake.
  - » **Removing passing lanes** and widening the road. We've heard that people are taking risks in these passing lanes – removing them can prevent crashes.
- We're also looking at rumble strips on the side and centre of the road to give drivers a wake-up call if they stray out of their lane, as well as making intersections safer with signs, markings and traffic islands.

## Next steps

We'll consider all the feedback we get before we make any decisions about next steps. Depending on the improvements we make, we should be able to start work in early 2019.

## Have your say online

If you don't have time to have your say at one of our open days, you can also tell us your views online, give us a call or send us an email.



Angus McGrath,  
Community Engagement Manager  
**021 206 9715** (between 9am - 5pm)



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Provide feedback online at  
**[nzta.govt.nz/w2bbe](https://nzta.govt.nz/w2bbe)** before 7 February



Help us make this stretch of road safer for everyone.

## Making rural roads safer

This project is part of the government's \$600m Safe Roads and Roadsides Programme to reduce the number of people dying or being seriously injured on our rural state highways, through improvements like rumble strips, road shoulder widening, safety barriers and changes to speed limits.