



Rebuilding Devil's Elbow

We're rebuilding stronger and safer highways for thriving East Coast communities

Transport Rebuild East Coast



Devil's Elbow is a priority project

Devil's Elbow on State Highway 2 (SH2) suffered massive damage caused by Cyclone Gabrielle, resulting in road closures.

Much of this section of road is still reduced to one lane, causing ongoing disruptions to people's daily lives and the regional economy.

Safer and more resilient

Along with carrying out urgent recovery work, we're looking at what could be done to make this route safer and more resilient in the future.

We're working with Treaty and council partners and other stakeholders to test our ideas and develop them further. We'd like to get your thoughts too.

Over the next few months, we will use your feedback and continue our technical work, refining possible options.

We will keep you updated before we confirm any next steps.

What we're considering

We've come up with a combination of ideas to upgrade this section of highway and reduce the risk of it being closed or down to one lane in the future.

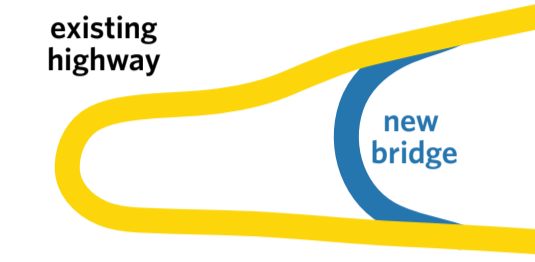
Our ideas range from repairs to major works like widening the road (to allow crews to remove slip material without closing the highway) and realigning sections to avoid areas prone to slips and rockfalls.

Tell us what you think.

Our focus: In corridor solutions

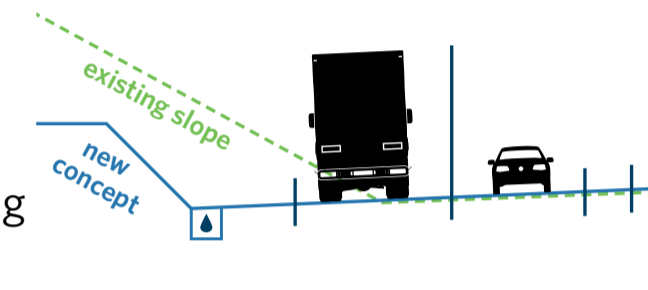
A new bridge concept

Easing the sharp bend at Devil's Elbow to improve safety and manage water flows better.



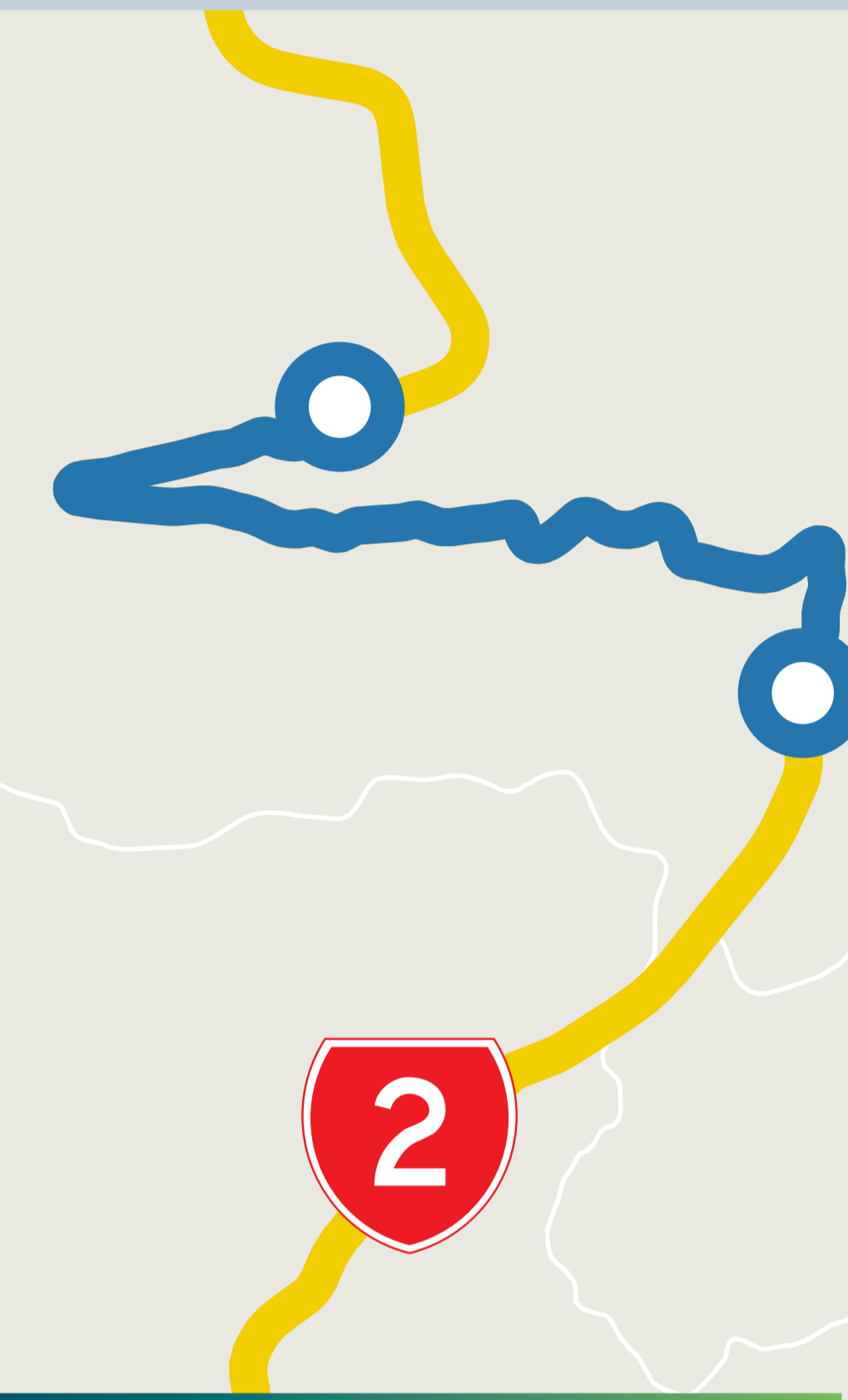
Widening the road

Widening on two approaches by cutting into the hillside or constructing structures, making the road straighter and wider.



Creating new larger drainage channels alongside the road

Capturing and diverting stormwater and sediment would help to prevent further erosion and underslips.

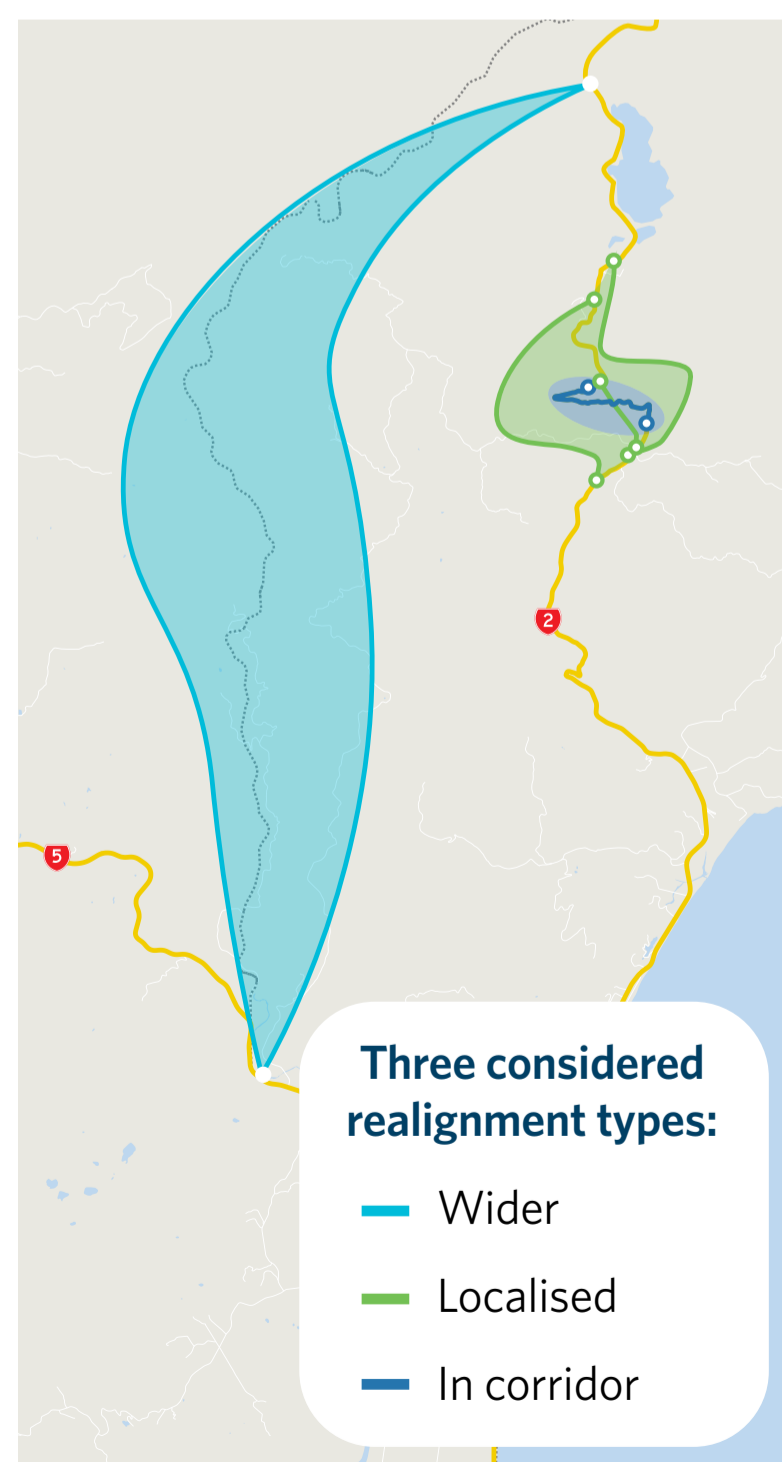


Rebuild programmes are subject to NZTA Board endorsement and funding

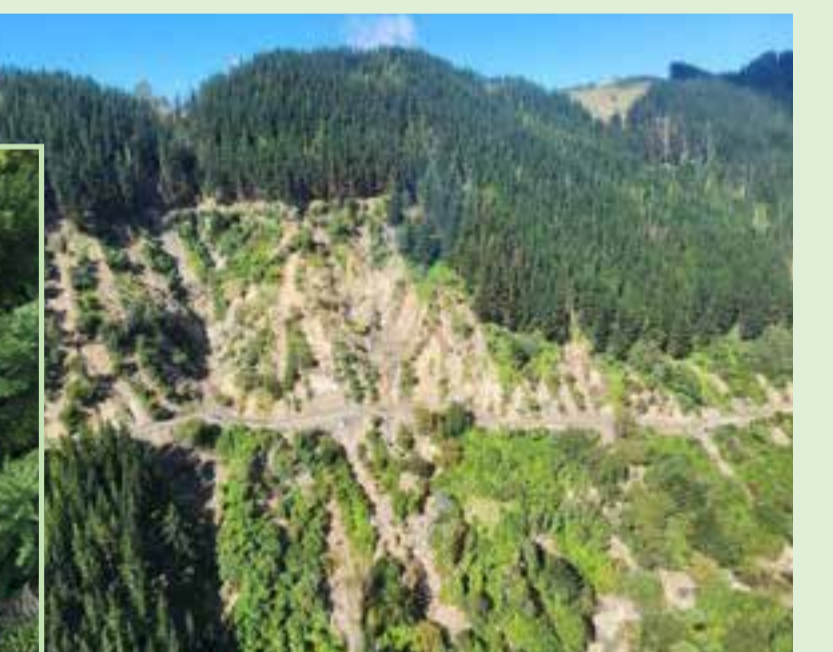
Our investigations

Some people have asked about bypassing this section of highway. Ideas like using the rail corridor as a new state highway route or building tunnels and bridges have been raised.

We considered these and other options. The high costs, length of time to construct and complexity of the topography and geology has seen the team focus on upgrades to the existing corridor instead.



Initial study area



Damage at the Devil's Elbow from Cyclone Gabrielle

Other ways of supporting a more resilient SH2

Alongside infrastructure, looking at how we respond before, during and after events is important. We're also looking at:

- **Network management changes:** Updating response plans with crews ready to reopen the road after extreme weather events. Clearing drains and debris following events.
- **Integrated land use:** Working with councils, landowners and the community to explore measures to stabilise the terrain and minimise the impact of heavy water flow, debris, and sediment on the road.



Have your say
Scan the QR code to be taken to our online feedback form

