

State Highway 2 and 5 Eskdale

Consultation feedback summary

Transport Rebuild East Coast



July 2024



We've had great conversations about how to make SH2 and SH5 in Eskdale safer and more resilient. Thanks to everyone who got involved.

In March and April 2024, we held 11 community events across Hawke's Bay, Wairoa and Tairāwhiti to discuss potential rebuild projects on State Highway 2 and 5 in Eskdale, State Highway 2 around Devil's Elbow and on State Highway 35 through the Mangahauini Gorge.

We also gathered feedback online, via a 0800 number, email, and a paper feedback form and met with Treaty partners, councils and other key stakeholders.

This document is a short summary of the feedback captured about our ideas for SH2 and SH5 in Eskdale.

About TREC

The Transport Rebuild East Coast (TREC) alliance is the delivery organisation for NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi and KiwiRail. Along with repairing East Coast state highways and rail after Cyclone Gabrielle, TREC is looking at ways to provide a more resilient state highway network in the future.

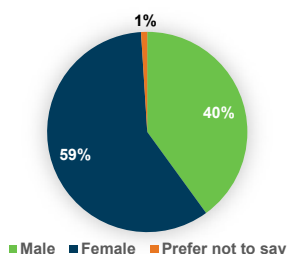
It's about safer, more reliable roads for everyone.

By the numbers

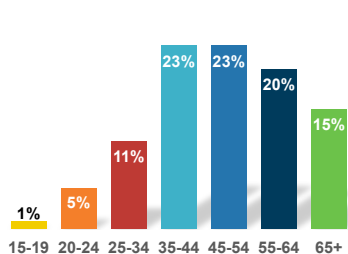
- 11** community drop-ins
- 335** people came to the events
- 237** pieces of feedback were collected
- 710** website views during consultation
- 79** ideas captured by staff on post-it notes and notepads
- 132** people completed a digital survey
- 700** subscribers to our TREC Pānui
- 30** people filled out a feedback form or emailed us

Who we heard from

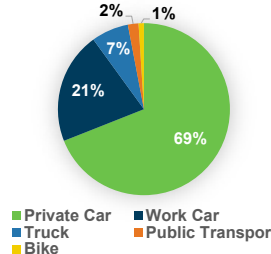
Gender



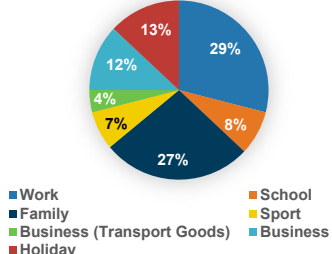
Age group



How do you travel?

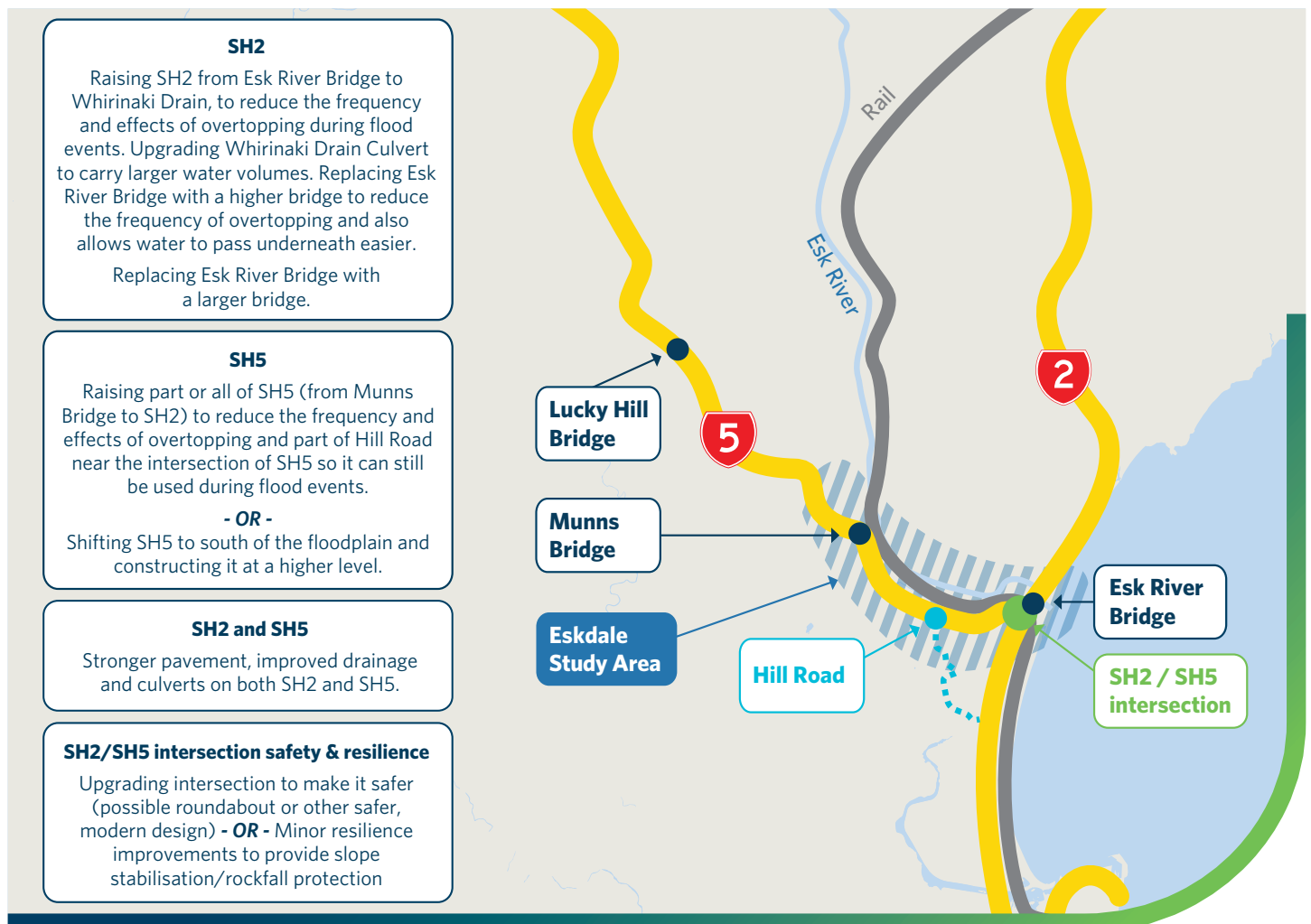


Main reason for travel



Potential options for SH2 and SH5 Eskdale

We shared a range of early ideas, from better drainage and improved road pavement, raising the highway and even looking at new alignments. We asked people what they thought and if there was anything we should know before we carry on our technical investigation and work towards an emerging preferred option.



What we heard

There was a wide range of views, with most people supportive of one or more of the options put forward.

Ideas to upgrade the existing routes to make them safer and more resilient were viewed positively by most, while others called for further investigations into alternative routes and major realignments or projects like stop banks and new bridges.

Most people support better pavement and drainage options, along with suggested improvements to the SH2/SH5 intersection.

There is strong support for replacing the Esk River Bridge and support for the idea of raising the existing SH5 route.

Raising SH2 from Esk River Bridge to Whirinaki Drain was supported by some, with others highlighting the need to address the cause of flooding before spending money. Concerns about drainage issues and flooding related to raising the highways were expressed by some, with people questioning where water would back up and pool.

The option of moving SH5 to the south and constructing it higher split opinions and was not supported by people who could be affected and other community members. Possible impacts on other infrastructure and housing and issues around noise, child safety, bus stops, cultural sites and mental health and wellbeing were noted. Others who could be affected and other community members supported this idea and further investigations.



What you said

"Local input and knowledge are important. We saw it all happen."

Keep the highway where it already is but raise it.

"The SH2/ SH5 intersection is dangerous. Speed and visibility are problems."

"Just hurry up and fix it all please."

"If the road (SH5) is raised, could our place and others flood?"

"Culverts and drainage are very important!"

"I don't support moving the highway."

"People get anxious when it rains hard. Don't add to our stress. Just fix the road quickly and move on."

"Drainage and better road surfaces make sense."

"Moving SH5 to the south concerns us. There is inadequate drainage in Esk Valley and what there is, is not well maintained."

More investment in regional roads is needed.

"Moving the road would not make a difference, flood waters are the same. We saw it."

"Use local contractors where you can. They know the roads well."

"Keep the school bus pull-over bays if you do move the road."

"Really appreciate all the information. Keep it coming."

"Put a new route back on the table."



It's important that the rebuild gets done right the first time - otherwise it's a wasted exercise.

Options sound costly and take a long time. How about we fix what we have and maintain it better?

The main priority is that access in and out of Hawke's Bay continues.

The SH5/SH2 intersection is dangerous - I've seen many near-misses.

Lifting the road is dramatic. Go back a step and clear out and maintain culverts.

"Close roads at night to get more work done or how about weekend work?"

"Wait times at work sites are too long."

Thank you

Thank you for your feedback, all comments and insights have been considered and used alongside our technical work to help refine our ideas.

We will develop recommendations that are subject to NZTA Board endorsement and funding.

We received feedback about delays caused by our work sites. Working with community representatives, we've made changes to our traffic management and how we communicate the traffic impact to see how we can improve things further and give people more certainty around travel times.

Work on the transport network is going to take time and there will be multiple sites. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

We'll keep listening and responding to your feedback. All information gathered is valuable to future works and our recovery projects.

Ngā mihi nui - thanks for your support.

Whakapā mai ■ Get in touch

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