

Managing the debris washing onto the road considering the length of seal up the access road

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Motorcycle crashes make up a significant proportion of the deaths and serious injuries on the New Zealand State Highway network (15% deaths, 10% injuries). On rural roads debris build up on a road can pose a serious risk to motorcyclists who require a smooth continuous surface to retain control, especially during cornering.

Such debris is often washed down or tracked from unsurfaced or partially surfaced access ways on to the road surface. This debris usually consisting of road gravel but can also include earth materials such as clays and even larger rocks. The assortment of materials that do end up on the highway have varying impacts on the road surface; clay and loose gravel cause a loss of skid resistance whilst larger rocks are hazards that must be avoided.

This paper reports findings from an investigation into one combative measure that is reasonable to be implemented in an 'ad hoc' manner and specifically targets motorcycle loss of control incident reduction. This paper looks at the likelihood of debris washing down or being tracking onto the roadway, as a function of the surfaced length, and slope of an adjacent access away.

This information will assist those responsible for managing a road network to help reduce the instance of motorcycle loss of control crashes on potentially slippery road surfaces.