

## **Improving the safety of New Zealand's rural roads**

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Improving the safety of New Zealand's rural roads is a key outcome of the Government's 10-year road safety strategy.

In 2015 the New Zealand Transport Agency formed the Safe Roads Alliance to deliver a programme of consistent safety improvements using the internationally recognised 'Safe System' approach to rural state highways around the country. The Alliance is a new delivery vehicle for the Agency.

The Safe System approach acknowledges that people make mistakes that can lead to crashes, but they shouldn't have to die or be seriously injured because of these mistakes. The Alliance will deliver a Safe Roads and Roadsides programme to help reduce the severity of the outcome of these mistakes.

The Alliance has in its programme over 30 projects in various stages of development around the country. The Alliance has been adapting and developing a range of safety treatments which address the variety of crash types most commonly found to result in deaths and serious injuries on New Zealand roads. These safety treatments form part of our 'safety toolkit'.

We actively work to take into account environmental and social aspects of our projects, including the needs of road users (such as agricultural vehicles, cyclists, school buses and motorcyclists), whilst ensuring access to property is maintained. By using a consistent approach to stakeholder engagement and safety management, from design through to construction, we can apply our 'safety toolkit' and deliver safety benefits for the Agency's high-risk rural highway customers across New Zealand.

Live project examples will be used to illustrate the challenges and practices we have refined through our development and implementation phases.