



Works continue on the damaged bridge, with a single lane available for traffic

## Closure and detour ahead on Desert Road

The first of two 36-hour closures on the SH1-Desert Road will occur from Wednesday 7 March.

This will require a detour for traffic in both directions involving SH46-SH47-SH4-SH49. The detour is not suitable for high-productivity motor vehicles (HPMV), apart from 50MAX which are permitted.

Repair work on the Waihohonu Stream bridge started in February and has seen traffic crossing single lane under stop/go with a 30km/h speed restriction.

The work was required after a truck rollover last winter caused severe damage, and is expected to be completed in April.

The two full closures are required for the concrete pours on the deck. Access for trampers/hunters etc will still be available from the northern and southern ends of the highway.

The first closure occurs from 7am on Wednesday 7 March for 36 hours, reopening at 7pm the following evening, 8 March. The second is scheduled on Wednesday-Thursday 4-5 April. The closures are weather-dependent. The detour will be well signposted for both north and south-bound traffic.

Vehicles with over-weight or over-dimension loads wider than 3 metres have not been able to use the route since work started due to the lane restrictions on the bridge.

While the bridge work has been taking place other parts of the Desert Road have also been under repair, causing some delays.

Anyone planning to travel on the Desert Road during the works period should allow extra time for their journey, especially if heading to ferry terminals or airports etc.

Alternative routes are available to miss the Desert Road, including using SH4-SH49 via Taumarunui, via Hawke's Bay (SH2), and Taranaki (SH3).



### Stay up to date

For up-to-date traffic and travel information and nationwide weather and road conditions check out:

[www.nzta.govt.nz/traffic](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/traffic)

Information can also be found on the Transport Agency's Twitter and Facebook, you can find these here:

[www.nzta.govt.nz/contact-us/connect-with-us/](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/contact-us/connect-with-us/)

To speak to the call centre team for traffic and travel information drivers can also call:

0800 4 HIGHWAYS  
(0800 44 44 49)



## What you need to know

- There are road works at the Waihohonu Stream bridge and a number of other sites under way until April. Expect delays and speed restrictions
- Waihohonu Stream bridge repairs are ongoing until April, with a single lane open to traffic under stop/go with a 30km/h speed restriction, and subject to 5-minute delays
- The bridge site will need a full closure for 36 hours from 7am 7 March to 7pm 8 March
- A second closure is planned for 7am 4 April to 7pm 5 April. These closures are needed for concrete pours and are weather-dependent.
- During the full closures the detour route is SH46-SH47-SH4-SH49 for most vehicles. This route is not suitable for all heavy vehicles operating under permit. Please contact your local permit-issuing officer for more information



Work continues in one lane while traffic crosses using the other lane under stop/go.