

Kaikoura/Hurunui Earthquake: **Environmental Challenges and Opportunities**



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Overview

1. Setting the scene
 - Location
 - Damage
2. Emergency legislation
3. Case study – Ohau Point



Kaikoura

- SH1 1 (road) & MNL (rail) between Picton & Christchurch.
- Major tourist destination - whale & dolphin encounters





THE EARTHQUAKE



7.8 MAGNITUDE
KAIKOURA EARTHQUAKE

THE SOUTH ISLAND MOVED

6M CLOSER

TO THE
NORTH ISLAND



RUPTURES OCCURRED ON
21 FAULT LINES,
ACROSS 170KM
IN A COMPLEX SEQUENCE THAT
LASTED FOR ABOUT 2 MINUTES



THE EARTHQUAKE
GENERATED A

TSUNAMI OF NEARLY
7 METRES IN PLACES

Geographic context

Kaikoura: state of emergency declared in town cut off by New Zealand earthquake

Strong aftershocks and looming severe weather hamper efforts to reach communities stranded by disaster

● New Zealand earthquake - read the latest updates



📍 Damaged road near Oaro on State Highway 1, caused by Monday's earthquake in New Zealand. Photograph: NZ Transport Agency





RAIL



100% OF THE
TRACK IMPACTED
BY NOVEMBER'S EARTHQUAKE
WAS REPAIRED BY
AUGUST 2017



220

WORK SITES ALONG
190KM OF RAIL LINE

20 RAIL

TUNNELS SUSTAINED
MAJOR DAMAGE



**PRIOR TO THE
EARTHQUAKE**



1 MILLION TONNES
OF FREIGHT CARRIED YEARLY



ROAD

BETWEEN CHEVIOT AND CLARENCE THERE ARE:

1,500+
DAMAGED SITES

200+ WITH
MAJOR ISSUES

100+ DAMAGED
STRUCTURES

9 SIGNIFICANT
DAMAGE

85 
LANDSLIDES

194KM
OF ROAD AFFECTED
BETWEEN WAIPARA
AND PICTON

Coastal uplift



Landslides





Hurunui/Kaikoura Earthquake Recovery Act 2016



ECOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES

These principles guide our project design, construction and environmental outcomes.

They are a requirement under the emergency legislation which enabled the reinstatement of the **transport corridor** - and fundamental to the NCTIR program underpinning good decision making.

The 10 NCTIR ecological principles are:

- 1 Avoid as far as practicable, or minimise permanent habitat loss (including coastal, terrestrial and freshwater habitats).
- 2 Avoid as far as practicable, or minimise loss of rare ecosystem types and habitats for Threatened, At Risk, taonga and marine mammal species.
- 3 Avoid as far as practicable, or minimise habitat fragmentation/barriers (including coastal, terrestrial and freshwater habitats).
- 4 Avoid as far as practicable, or minimise impacts on habitat connectivity (including coastal, terrestrial and freshwater habitats).
- 5 Avoid as far as practicable, or minimise impacts on Threatened, At Risk, taonga and marine mammal species.
- 6 Create safe habitats, especially for Threatened, At Risk, taonga and marine mammal species. For example, where possible build in habitat creation/improvement opportunities for species such as seals, penguins and significant plants.
- 7 Avoid as far as practicable, or minimise effects on water quality and sediment - including kai moana and mauri.
- 8 Avoid as far as practicable, or minimise alteration of natural hydrology patterns to the extent practicable.
- 9 Avoid as far as practicable, or minimise the potential for the spread and/or establishment of pest plants or animals (including coastal, terrestrial and freshwater habitats).
- 10 Avoid as far as practicable, or minimise impacts on habitats that play an important role in the life cycle and ecology of native species. For example, seal breeding colonies, shag roosts/nesting sites, gull breeding colonies.



Case Study - Ohau Point



Ohau Point Fur Seal Sanctuary



- Largest breeding colony on the east coast of the South Island, with some 4,000 seals.
- Buried under **150,000m³** of slip material.
- Ohau Stream waterfall pool destroyed.



Ohau Point Road Rebuild

- Heli-sluicing
- Scaling
- Blasting
- Remove slip material
- Geotechnical
- Build seawall – out into the seal sanctuary.
- NZ fur seal breeding colony – 4,000 individuals.









NZ fur seals

- Worked closely with Department of Conservation.
- Full time seal handlers (2-6 people), day and night team.
- Seal phone and business cards.
- Handling and retrieval protocols.
- Management methods:
 - fencing;
 - high-pressure hose;
 - hand moving – herding and capturing; and...



 **THE TEAM**
HAS PERSONALLY MOVED
11,000+ SEALS
(ADULT AND PUPS)
SINCE FEBRUARY 2017

Heli-herding



Ohau Rock Daisy



- Variety of rock daisy found only on the bluffs of Ohau Point.
- **95%** of the Ohau rock daisy population was lost as a result of the earthquake.

Ohau Rock Daisy

Rare Marlborough rock daisy being brought back to life following Kaikoura quake

JONATHAN CARSON

Last updated 17:58, June 13 2017



Challenges and Opportunities



- Limited physical space
- Harsh environment
- High ecological values
- Emergency legislation
- Adaptive management & innovation

Thank you – Questions?



Key conditions

- Requirement for Restoration Liaison Group
- Ecological scoping surveys
- Development of project ecological principles
- Construction Environmental Management Plan
- Erosion and Sediment Control Plan
- Iwi Adviser required supported by cultural monitors





RETAINING WALLS AND SEA WALLS

302
RETAINING
WALLS
HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED
AS DAMAGED
97 ARE ALONG THE
COASTLINE



2.8KM
OF SEAWALL
BEING CONSTRUCTED

7,000+
BLOCKS WILL
BE NEEDED TO BUILD THE
SEAWALLS NORTH
OF KAIKOURA



EACH SEAWALL
BLOCK WEIGHS
5 TONNE



35% OF THE
WORK TO BUILD
SEAWALLS IS PREPARING
THE FOUNDATIONS





