

"One team making a difference to keep the Coast safely connected"

Winter Services Report 2019



Released under the Official Information Act 1982

1 2019 Annual Winter Summary Report

1.1 Summary

This is the fourth winter period for the West Coast NOC in this present contract period. The snow was more in the form of showers rather than the heavy consistent snow that was more typical previous winters. From July onwards the road temperatures were warmer than usual and there were more overnight sleet showers on the summits that required continual monitoring. Conditions on the Haast Pass were milder than usual. There were also a couple of heavy rain events during the winter period.

The most wide ranging snow event was in August where snow fell to sea level over most of the area.

1.2 Customer Reactions

Commercial Operators, registered with the text programme, continue to be appreciative of the service and used it extensively. Generally commercial operators were aware of the road conditions and made decisions accordingly, to lessen the impact on their business.

On occasion some private travellers were unaware or unsure of the road conditions. This was often due to being confused with conflicting and incorrect information available through social media. Early in the winter period many unofficial forecasting and road condition sites were advertising the public that snow was forecast and the Alpine Passes would be closed. This was factually incorrect

Social media has a strong part to play with communication to the public today, although when there is delay and conflicting information available it can put the integrity of the official NZTA messaging at risk.

During periods of treating the highways for snow and ice, the interactions that were had with the customers on site were almost all positive. The anecdotal feedback from transport operators is they understand the need to close at times. They are positive about the work being undertaken and consider it to be of a high standard.

1.3 Road Closures

Number of closures for last four winters

		2016	2017	2018	2019
SH6	Haast Pass	0	2	1	3
SH7	Lewis Pass	2	7	8	17
SH7	Rahu Saddle	0	1	0	1
SH73	Otira	4	2	3	9

Average historic closure time per winter season (hrs)

		2016	Annual %	2017	Annual %	2018	Annual %	2019	Annual %
SH6	Haast Pass	1.5	0.0%	36	0.4%	4	0.0%	0	0.0%
SH7	Lewis Pass	21.75	0.2%	66	0.8%	46	0.5%	101	1.2%
SH7	Rahu Saddle	0	0.0%	4	0.0%	0	0.0%	69	0.8%
SH73	Otira	18.15	0.2%	29	0.3%	18.5	0.2%	20	0.2%

1.4 Photos

01 June 2019



Lewis Pass



Arthurs Pass



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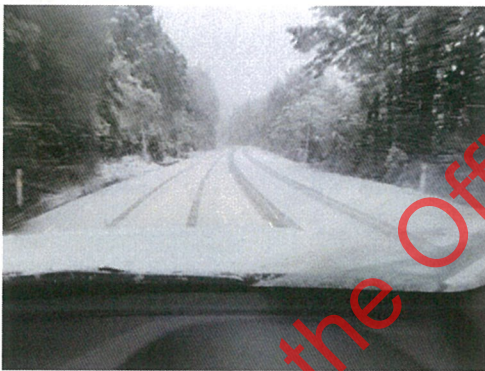
15 July 2019



Lewis Pass



31 July 2019



Lewis Pass



Arthurs Pass



10 Mile



Turiwhate

Dillmanstown



Lewis Pass



Rahu Saddle



Grey Valley



Arthurs Pass



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Reefton – September 2019

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