

Building the Future:

SH1 Belfast to Pegasus Motorway and Woodend Bypass

More New Zealanders are choosing to make Canterbury home, drawn by affordable housing, good jobs and a great lifestyle. National is committed to supporting Christchurch and the wider region to grow.

Canterbury is the engine room of the South Island. It is home to around 695,000 people, roughly one in eight New Zealanders, and is our second-largest regional economy, generating \$55.5 billion of GDP in the year to March 2025.

North Canterbury is at the forefront of that growth. The Waimakariri District has more than doubled in size since the early 1990s to around 70,000 people, making it one of the fastest-growing districts in the country.

But the roads haven't kept up. They face long queues at peak times, a main street clogged with trucks, and a poor safety record. Under this National-led Government, the Belfast to Pegasus Motorway and Woodend Bypass is finally moving after two decades of talk, and if re-elected, the next National government will fund it and get it built.

Building on National's investments in Canterbury

National has a proud history of delivering for Canterbury.

- **Increased transport investment** in Canterbury to \$1.8 billion, around 50 per cent more than under Labour.
- Funded upgrades to **SH76 Brougham Street**, one of Christchurch's busiest roads and the main freight route to Lyttelton Port, carrying more than 45,000 vehicles a day. Construction began in July 2025.
- Progressed **Belfast to Pegasus** and the **Woodend Bypass**, allocating \$127 million to pre-implementation, property purchase and early works. Early physical works are already under way, and the project secured fast-track approval in July 2026.

- Began construction of the **Second Ashburton Bridge**, keeping our promise to start it in our first term. This is a key route for ensuring our people and goods can get up and down the South Island and needs to be future proofed.
- Invested \$38.5 million towards the replacement of Christchurch's nearly 100-year-old **Pages Road Bridge**, the lifeline and evacuation route for New Brighton and Southshore, carrying more than 13,000 vehicles a day.
- Began work on the **SH1 Rolleston Access Improvements project**, making it safer and easier to enter or exit Rolleston and providing a less congested connection for freight into the industrial area.
- Successfully launched the **National Ticketing Solution** in Canterbury, the first city in the country to benefit from this \$1.36 billion investment to provide an easier and more convenient way for passengers to pay for public transport.
- Completed major roading improvements for **State Highway 75/Halswell Road** in Christchurch competed months ahead of schedule, increasing resilience and supporting housing growth in the southwest of Christchurch.

National's Canterbury Transport Plan

A re-elected National Government will:

- Fully fund construction of the **Belfast to Pegasus Motorway and Woodend Bypass**, so NZTA begin to deliver this important project for Canterbury.
- Commit **\$800 million** in our first Budget to deliver the project, with construction starting next year.

Belfast to Pegasus Motorway and Woodend Bypass

The Belfast to Pegasus Motorway and Woodend Bypass will extend the Christchurch Northern Motorway around 11 kilometres north, from just south of the Waimakariri River to beyond Pegasus and Ravenswood.

This much needed road will boost economic growth, reduce congestion, and improve safety. SH1 approaching Woodend currently carries around 21,500 vehicles per day, of which nine percent is freight. The traffic volume is expected to reach 28,000 vehicles per day by 2048. There were 280 crashes on SH1 through Woodend between 2014 and 2023, with three fatalities and 25 serious injuries.

During peak times it can take up to 20 minutes to travel through Woodend, and it's difficult for people to access the shops, or drop off and pick up children from the local primary school.

This project will improve travel times, reduce congestion, and improve safety. It includes:

- Widening the southern section of the existing SH1 from two to four lanes.
- A new four-lane motorway bypass in the northern section.
- A grade separated interchange at the Williams Street intersection with SH1.
- Replace the Pegasus roundabout with an overbridge and signalised intersection.
- Kaiapoi Bridge seismic strengthening and widening.
- Construction of new bridges over the Cam River and overbridges at Woodend Beach Road and Gladstone Road.

Delivering this project has substantial benefits, including up to 10 minutes time saving at peak. It is expected to reduce traffic through Woodend from 21,500 vehicles per day to 8,000, and a reduction in deaths and serious injuries by 78%.

This project demonstrates strong value for money, returning up to \$2.30 in benefits for every dollar invested.

Critically, it will also make the corridor more reliable for people and freight travelling to and from Christchurch, Christchurch Airport and Lyttelton Port.

For locals, the bypass means getting their town centre back. With through-traffic and heavy trucks moved from Woodend onto the new motorway, enabling a safer and more vibrant main street.

Because of National's work in Government, the project is ready to go and is the next investment-ready project on the Major Transport Projects Pipeline. We will fund the Belfast to Pegasus Motorway and Woodend Bypass directly in our first budget, allowing construction to commence in 2027.

Fiscal impact

National's Canterbury Transport Plan commits \$800 million of Crown capital, held in tagged contingency and released once the project is ready to proceed.

\$800 million will be provided to deliver construction of the Belfast to Pegasus Motorway and Woodend Bypass, based on the 2025 NZTA Investment Case. Any additional costs to be met from the State Highway Improvements Activity class of National Land Transport Fund.

Capital (\$m)	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	Total
Belfast to Pegasus Motorway and Woodend Bypass	\$800.00	-	-	-	\$800.00
Net cost to the Crown	\$800.00	-	-	-	\$800.00