



Media Release  
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## Plan your holiday journey

If you're planning to travel over the holidays, allow extra time for your journey as the roads are expected to be busy.

Traffic volumes increase significantly during the summer break, and a number of cars will be towing trailers, caravans or boats.

"If you are towing a trailer your maximum speed limit on the open road is 90 kilometres an hour. Keep left and pull over when it is safe to let other vehicles pass. Always keep a safe following distance between yourself and the vehicle in front. This gives you enough distance should the vehicle in front of you stop suddenly," says Selwyn Road Safety Coordinator Ngaire Tinning.

Currently many key South Island routes are affected by roadworks and drivers will need to allow for delays and reduce their speed at these locations in line with temporary speed signs. Other roads will busier than usual, as a result of holiday traffic and the closure of the main coastal route between Christchurch and Picton.

"Driving slower not only looks after the road surface but also reduces the chance of losing control or causing damage to your car or to others," says Mrs Tinning.

To check road conditions before you travel visit [www.nzta.govt.nz](http://www.nzta.govt.nz) or call NZTA on 0800 44 44 49.

A national speed campaign began in December, with a focus on ensuring drivers stay within speed limits. The 'Check your speed' campaign reminds drivers to be alert, check and match their driving speed to the current driving conditions. Billboards reminding motorists of these messages will be installed in Selwyn and nationally as part of this campaign.

The campaign also includes a Holiday Haiku competition encouraging people of all ages to submit a poem reminding drivers to check their speed. The competition has a great range of prizes. Entry forms are available from Council service centres or online at [z.co.nz/haiku](http://z.co.nz/haiku).

"When travelling long distances getting plenty of sleep before your journey and driving at times of the day when you are normally awake helps reduce the chances of being involved in an accident," says Mrs Tinning.

Planning your journey to include regular rest breaks from driving every couple of hours is also a good idea.

Drivers are responsible for ensuring that children under 15 year old are restrained either in a seat belt or an approved child seat suitable for their size and weight. There is a \$150 fine for each person not buckled up.

**Ends**

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