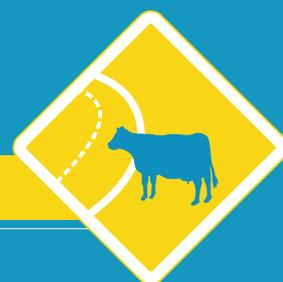


# some things **you** ought to **know** about



## keeping safe on rural roads

### prepare for the road

Country roads provide significant challenges for even the best drivers.

You can expect to find farmers and their dogs moving livestock, people riding horses, walkers, cyclists, and farm machinery, all sharing the road with you. It is important to be prepared for the unexpected and **SLOW DOWN**.

#### Gravel Roads

When driving on unsealed roads, you should reduce your speed to no more than 50 km/h. It pays to slow down even further when approaching oncoming traffic, as the dust will obscure your vision. Drive too fast and you will lose control.

Contact Customer Services on 03 313 6136 if you have any concerns about corrugations or potholes or the like.

#### Road Sealing

The Council is responsible for the maintenance of the Districts unsealed roads. It programmes works to seal around four kilometres of gravel roads every year.

For more information pick up our "Guide to Unsealed roads" from any Service Centre or Library.



### be aware

There are no footpaths, the roads can be narrow and windy, and often they will be unsealed and dusty as well.



#### Hedges that shade the road

Some hedges can impact on road safety – especially when the road runs from east to west and the trees are planted on the northern side.

These trees and hedgerows can cause icing on roads and footpaths creating hazards for drivers. The Council asks that landowners keep their trees and hedges trimmed.

For more information pick up a copy of our brochure on "Trees, Hedges and Road Safety". If the roads are icy - SLOW DOWN!



## sun + stock

### Sunstrike

This is when the sun's rays hit vehicle windscreens making it difficult or impossible to see. It is a significant problem especially for commuters travelling in and out of Christchurch in the winter months.

Sunstrike can occur at sunrise or sunset when the sun is at a low angle. You need to be prepared for it, especially when driving towards the sun. Keep your windscreen clean, both inside and out. Dust and grime on the windscreen can make the effects of sunstrike much worse.

### Stock movements

Farmers often use rural roads to move animals between paddocks or to graze stock at the side of the road. Broken fences, open farm gates or droppings suggest stock may be being moved.

### Horses

Don't be surprised if you come across children and adults riding horses along rural roads.

The Road Code requires that you pass slowly and give them plenty of room. Don't sound your horn or rev your engine because horses and ponies can panic around fast-moving cars. Stop if the horse appears frightened. Dip your headlights at night.

The average horse weighs 450 kilograms and could do a lot of damage to you and your car if you run into them.



### If there are animals on the road:

- ✓ Slow down, or pull over to the side of the road
- ✗ Don't sound your horn or rev your engine
- ✓ Follow any directions from the farmer
- ✓ If you come across wandering stock contact the Council's Customer Services: ph (03) 313 6136.

### Accidents with animals

If you injure a domestic or farm animal on the road, you must tell the animal's owner. If you can't contact them, tell the SPCA or the Police no more than 48 hours after the accident.

In the past five years there have been 22 fatal and over 300 injury crashes involving animals. Check the Land Transport Safety website for more information on dealing with animals on the road. [www.ltsa.govt.nz](http://www.ltsa.govt.nz)

### Rural drink driving

There are few alternative forms of transport in the rural areas of the District.

If you are planning a trip to the local, to visit friends, or barbeque down at the river, where alcohol may be consumed:

- ⦿ Stick to soft drinks
- ⦿ Arrange a ride with a sober driver
- ⦿ Or stay the night

## more info

Refer to our brochures or our website [www.waimakariri.govt.nz](http://www.waimakariri.govt.nz) for more information. Or call Customer Services: ph (03) 313 6136 or (03) 327 6834

### Rangiora

215 HIGH STREET  
PHONE 03 313 6136

### Kaiapoi

125 RAVEN QUAY  
PHONE 03 327 8039

### Oxford

34 MAIN STREET  
PHONE 312-1004

