# Cycle touring research and online mapping tool

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For those who wish to explore New Zealand by bike, Waka Kotahi is creating a nationwide cycling network that connects the towns and cities of Aotearoa. In 2018, the Agency decided that to inform business cases for state highway improvements we needed quantitative information on the numbers, route choices and experiences of cycle tourists.  And so, later that year, the first cycle touring survey was launched collecting information from over 500 cycle tourists.

The survey was repeated in 2019 and is currently live for 2020. From the survey information we have been able to map where cycle tourists go, the routes cycle tourist love and those they really don’t. We now have data to show what makes a route great for cycling and what doesn’t.

The information from these surveys has fed into numerous business cases and in turn to improvements ranging from shoulder widening, to bridge clip-ons and off-road paths. We found few cycle tourists taking some great routes, adding to the list of potential heartland rides. We also found some having terrible experiences on busy state highways when a much nicer route ran parallel.

We want to help cycle tourists find the safest and most enjoyable routes across New Zealand and avoid our scariest highways. We have also developed an online mapping tool showing the New Zealand Cycling Network – roads that meet the current heartland ride standards, city networks, and routes we caution against.

This presentation will share what we have learnt from the survey, the improvements made and planned, and take you through the new mapping tool.