

Submitted to  
2015 Trafinz Conference

# Visitor driver issues in Otago and Southland

August 2015



**MWH**<sup>®</sup>

***BUILDING A BETTER WORLD***

# 2015 crash analysis for NZTA

- Haast to Queenstown
- Twizel to Cromwell
- The West Coast
- The Crown Range
- The Catlins
- The rest of Otago and Southland

<http://www.saferjourneys.govt.nz/action-plans/signature-programme/>



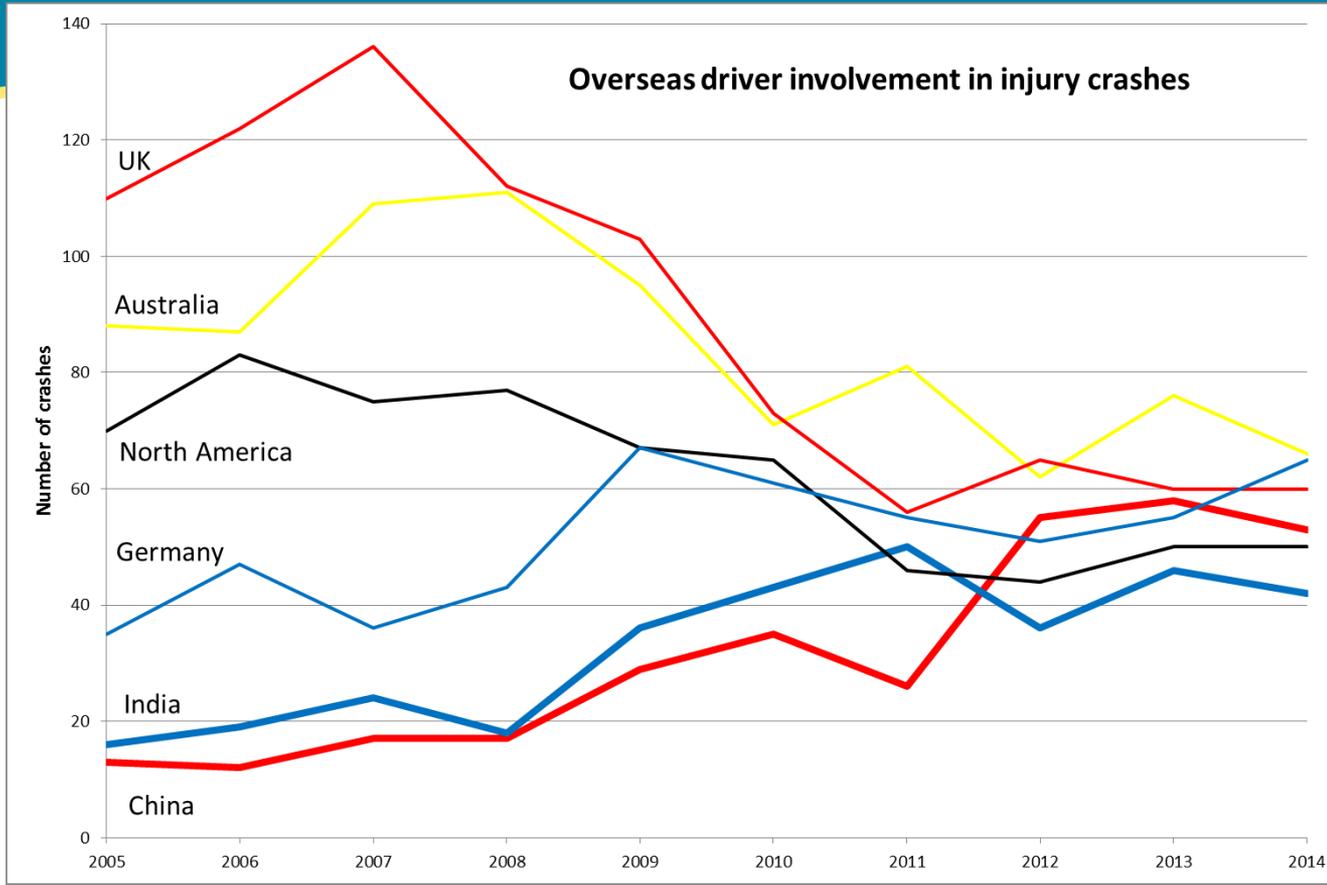
# Transport Futures

- Year to end of June 2015 there were 2.99 million international arrivals
- In 2015 international tourism is tipped to surpass dairying as the top earner for New Zealand
- Forecast of 4 million arrivals by 2021

Changing face of transport? More international visitors sharing our roads



# The changing face of transport



# Perspective

Licence Class	Number	%
Full	9177	67
Restricted	1627	12
Learner	967	7
Unknown	716	5
Overseas	567	4
Disqualified/Forbidden	236	2
Expired/Never licenced	159	1

All New Zealand injury crashes 2014. Involvement only, no fault implied



# General findings

- Group 1 - Crashes due to general driver error
- Group 2 - Crashes due to the fact that the driver is used to driving on 'the other side'
- Group 3 - Crashes due to poor driver skills



# Group 1 - Crashes due to driver error

- By far the majority of crashes involving drivers from overseas
- The safe system approach tells us that people make mistakes
- *“Most overseas drivers crash for the same reason as New Zealand drivers”*
- Perspective – 94 percent of the fatal and serious injury crashes that occurred nationally in the last five years did not involve a foreign driver. In Otago and Southland the figure is 89 percent.



# Group 1 - Crashes due to driver error

- Interventions for this group will also assist locals and domestic visitors
- Signage and delineation improvements
- Shoulder widening
- ATP markings/rumble strips
- Passing lanes
- Additional guardrail

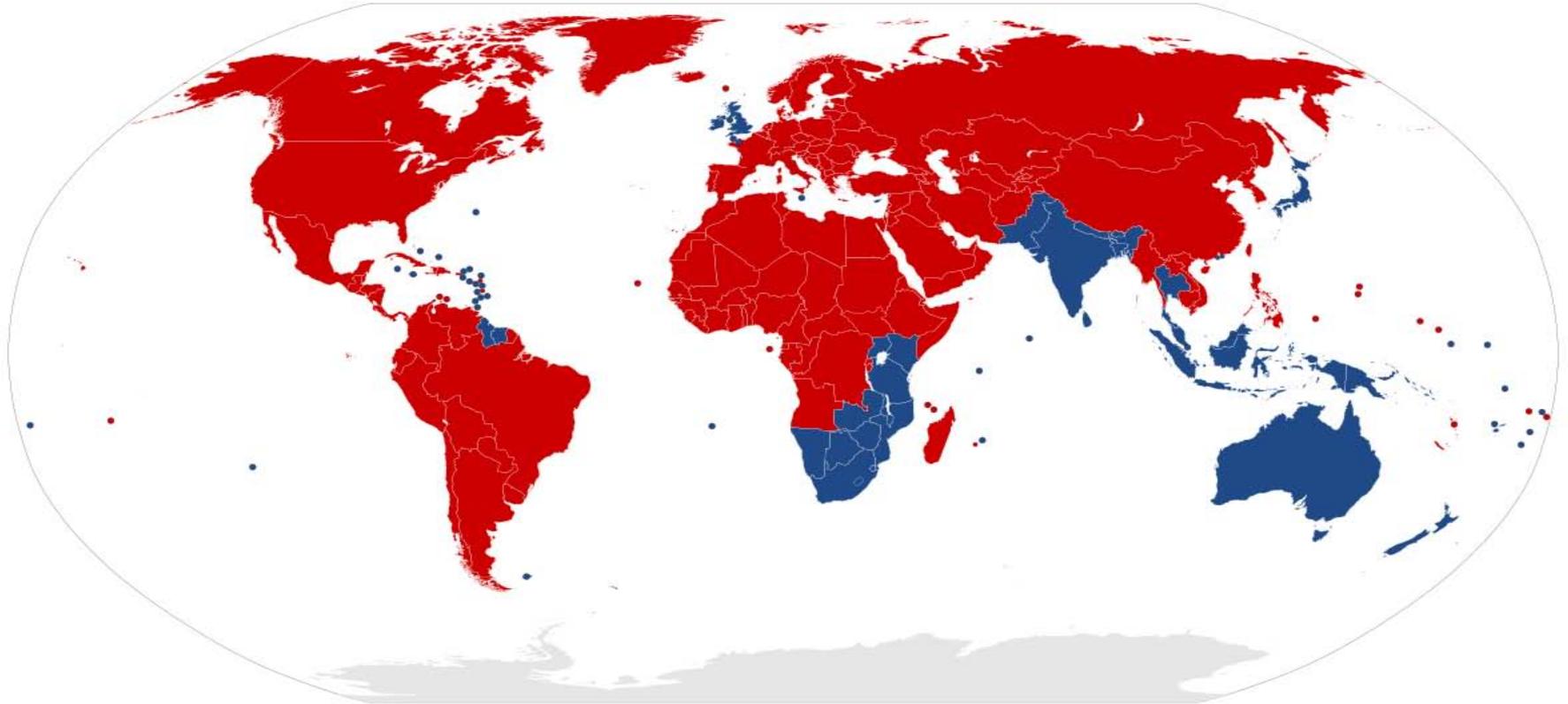


# Group 2 - Wrong side of the road

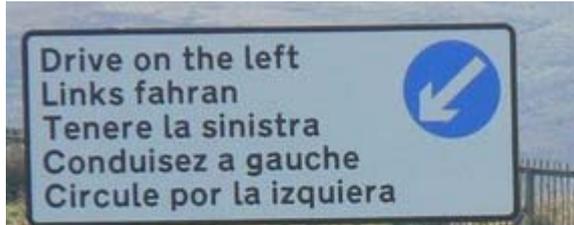
- In the study area 64 percent of the fatal and serious injury crashes involving overseas drivers involved people who normally drive on the right
- Of those around 16 percent of the fatal and serious injuries had it recorded as a contributing factor
- Often high severity
- Why is it an issue?



# How big a problem?



# Roadside messages



# Roadside messages



# In car reminders



# In car reminders

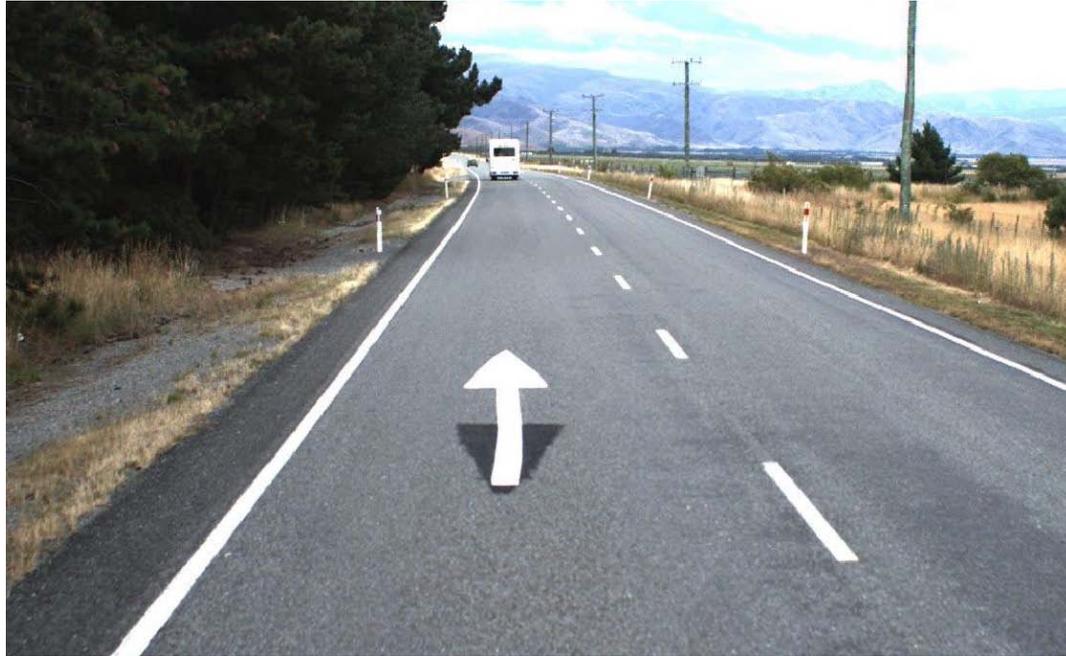


# Roadmarkings

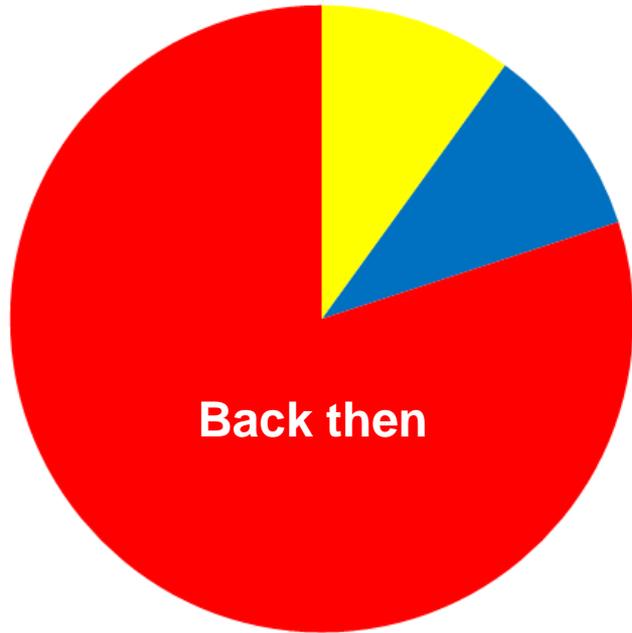
- Additional no passing lines
- Additional rumble strips
- Additional tourist arrows



# Roadmarkings



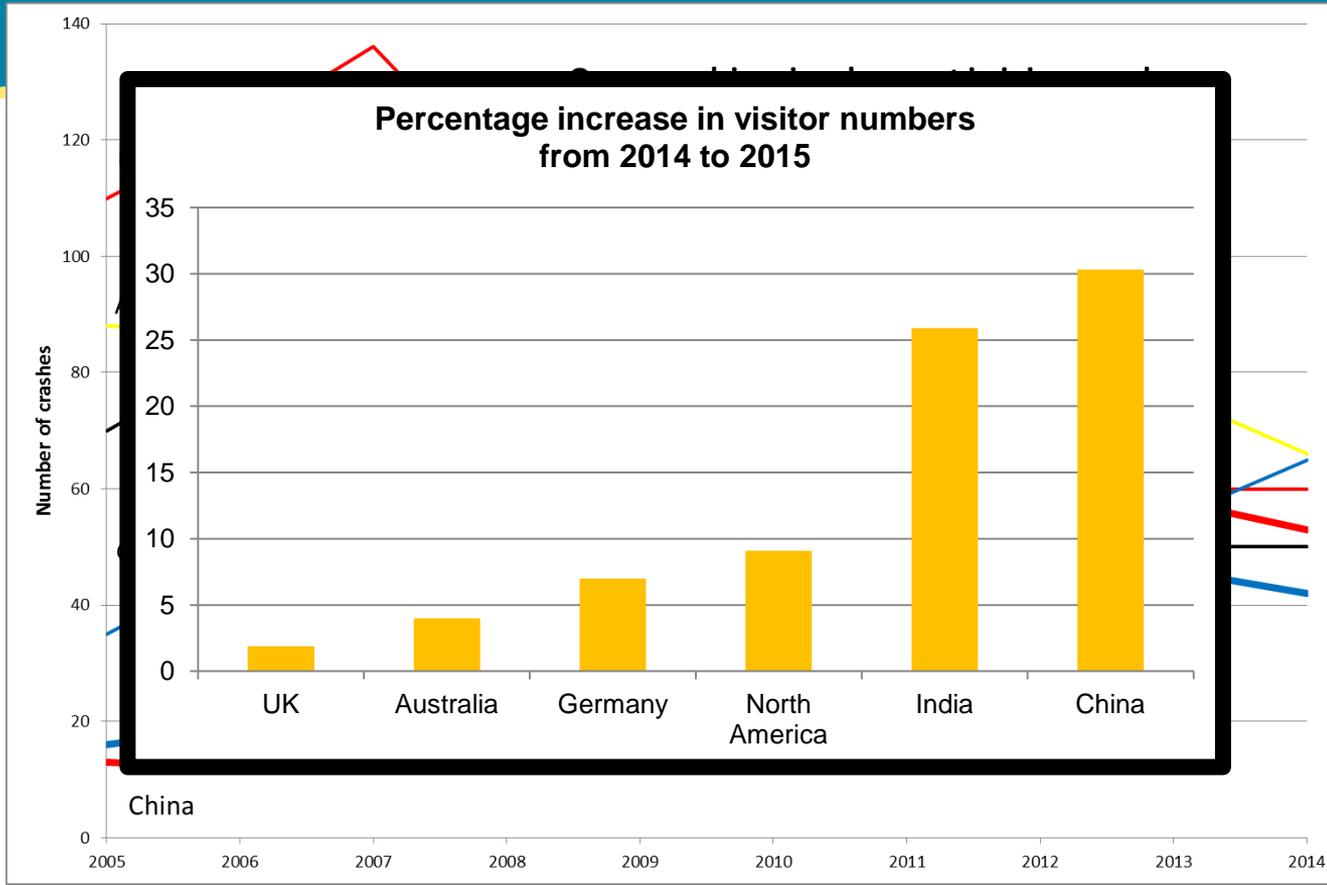
# Group 3 – different driving skills



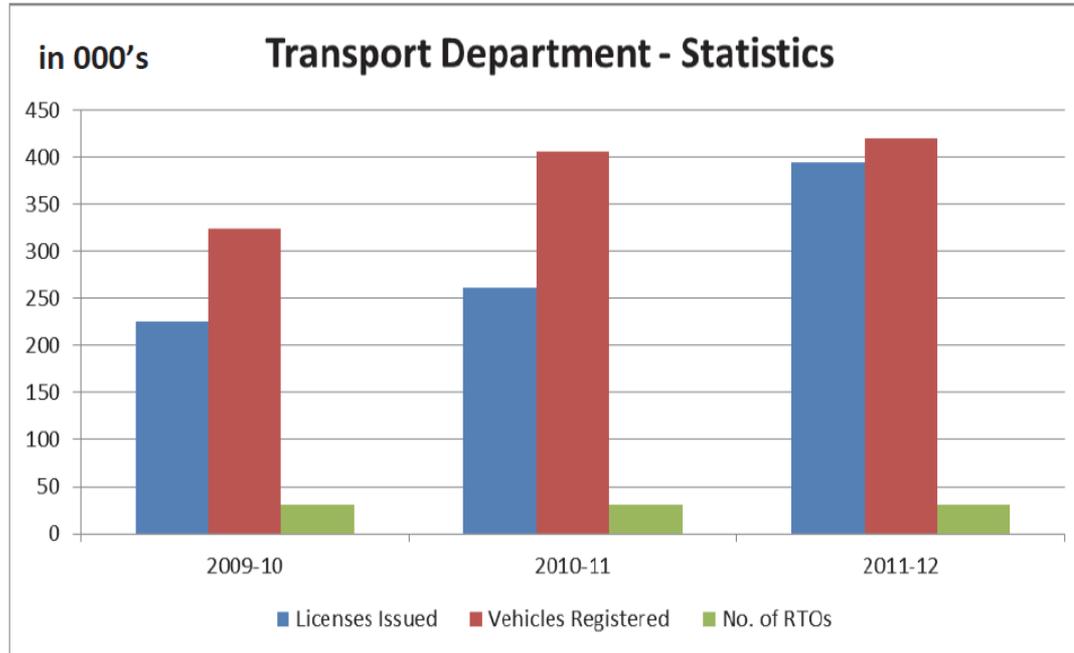
■ Driving on the wrong side ■ General driving mistakes ■ Poor driving skills



# The changing face of transport



# ICT presentation to Roads Australia conference



Source - Tony Mathew, Intercontinental Consultants and Technocrats Pvt Ltd



# The changing face of transport

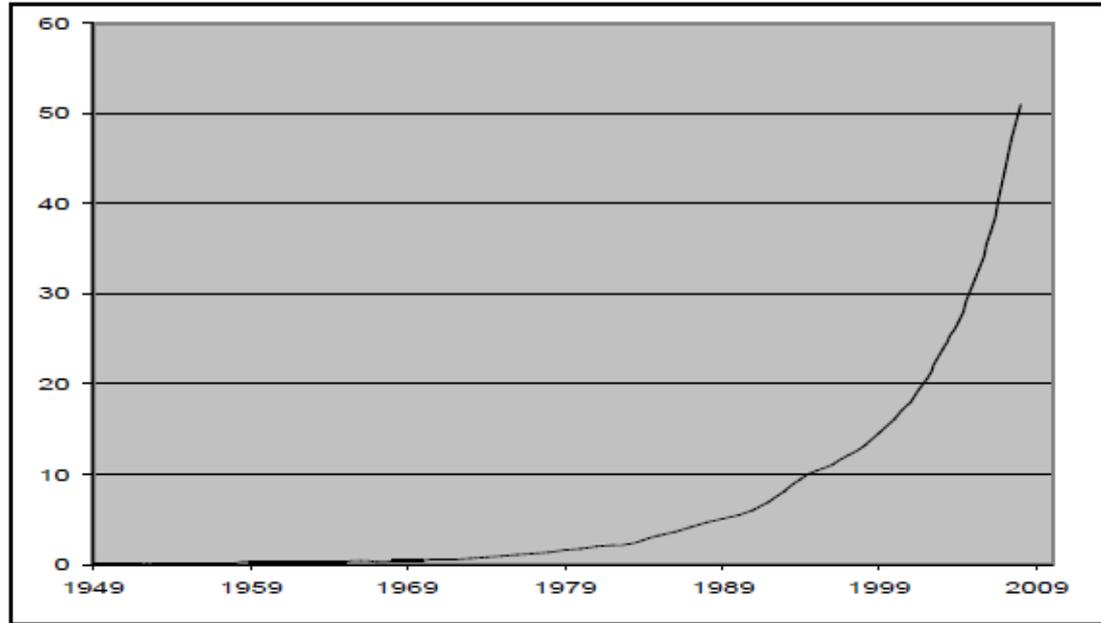


Figure 3.1 Total car ownership of China from 1949 to 2008 (millions of vehicles). Source: Statistics Database of National Knowledge Infrastructure



# 1949 Geneva Convention on Road Traffic

- 1949 – The Berlin airlift continues
- 1949 – TEAL and NAC use flying boats to Australia and Fiji
- 1949 – Bert Sutcliffe at his prime on tour of England
- 1949 – Between 11,000 and 12,000 international visitor arrivals
  
- Today – Equal the number of arrivals of 1949 in two days
- Today – Cheap flights connect with all corners of the globe



# Transport futures

- Crash Avoidance Technologies
- Telematics
- Cooperative ITS

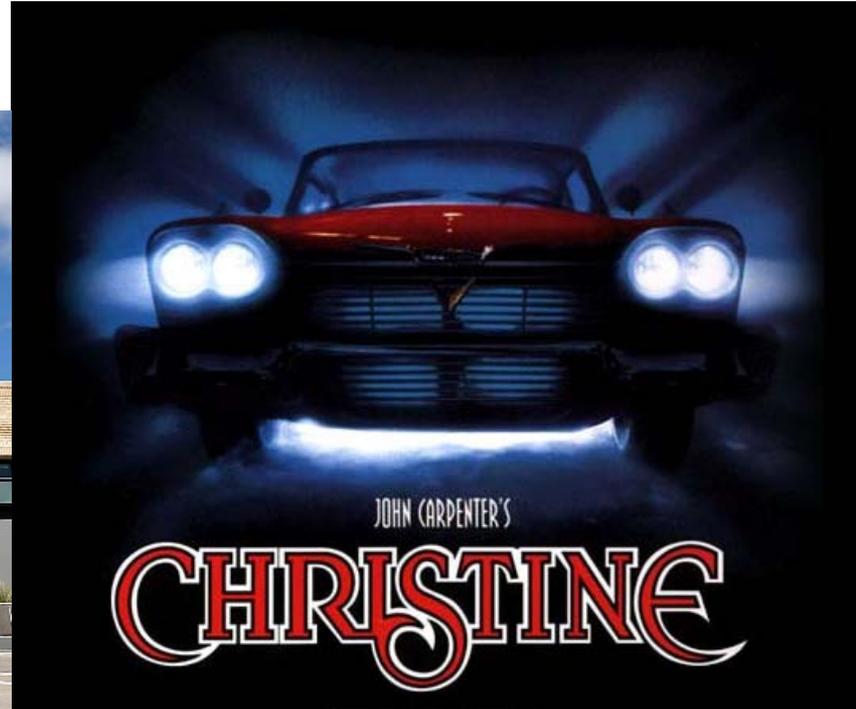


Can we wait?



# Transport futures

- Driverless cars



# The media

## Tourists at fault in one in 12 South Island crashes

**'What were you thinking?': Police shocked at tourist driver**

Published: 6:01PM Tuesday December 16, 2014 Source: ONE News

Email this article Print this article Text size + -

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## Tourists in court following car accidents

Swiss crash driver did not realise he was on the wrong side of the road

DAVID CLARKSON  
Last updated 19:24, March 2 2015



# Summary

- Our economy relies on the tourist dollar
- Everyone makes mistakes. It is inevitable that tourists will do the same when driving in New Zealand
- General road safety interventions will improve the network for the majority of visitors and locals alike
- Specific road safety interventions will assist those drivers who are unfamiliar with driving on the left hand side of the road
- Visitor drivers with a different skill set do not appear to be dealt with until too late.



# Conclusion

- 1949 was a long time ago and the world was very different
- We now share the roads with some people who do not have the same level of driving competence that we should expect.
- ITS has the potential to resolve many of these issues in ten years time, or twenty.
- The Tourism Association of New Zealand Code of Practice for rental vehicle companies is the first step.

My question is, can we wait until the technology catches up?



**Thank you**

