

## Are our high-risk highways getting safer?

New analysis from the NZ Automobile Association Research Foundation shows about 20 fewer fatal crashes happening each year across 35 of NZ's riskiest highways.<sup>1</sup>

### KEY FINDINGS

Between 2009 and 2023:

- There was a **50% increase in traffic** across the 35 highways analysed.
- **26 highways** had significant safety improvements.<sup>2</sup>
- There has been a **20% overall reduction** in serious and fatal crashes per year.
- 9 highways achieved **more than 50% reductions** in serious and fatal crashes.
- **6 highways** saw an increase in crashes.



The building of the Tauranga Eastern Link highway has helped see a 50% reduction in fatal and serious crashes on SH2 from Mount Maunganui to Paengaroa. Image: NZTA

Find the report here

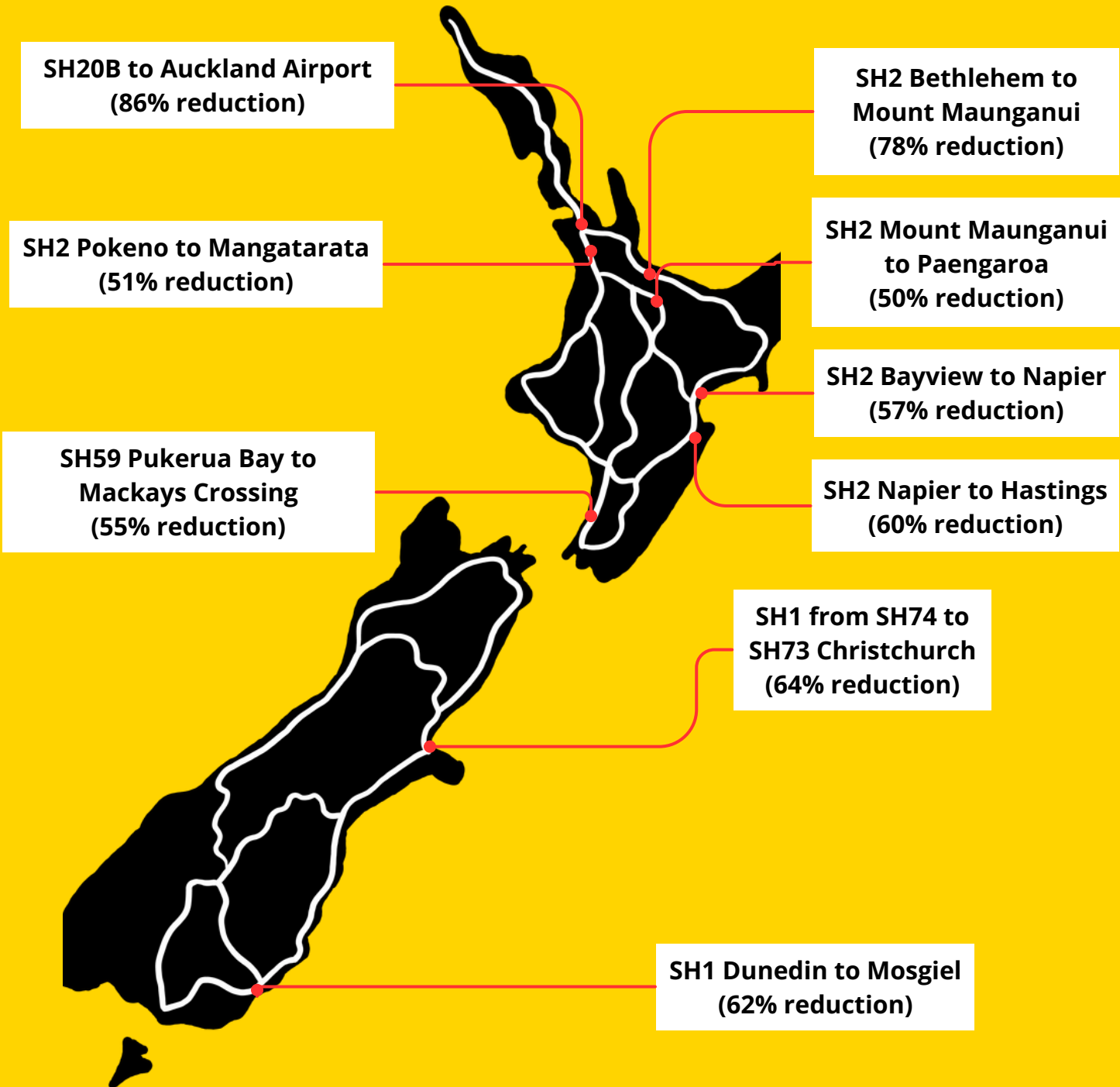


<sup>1</sup> Research released in 2025.

<sup>2</sup> Significant generally means bypasses (full or partial) and barrier installations (median or shoulder).

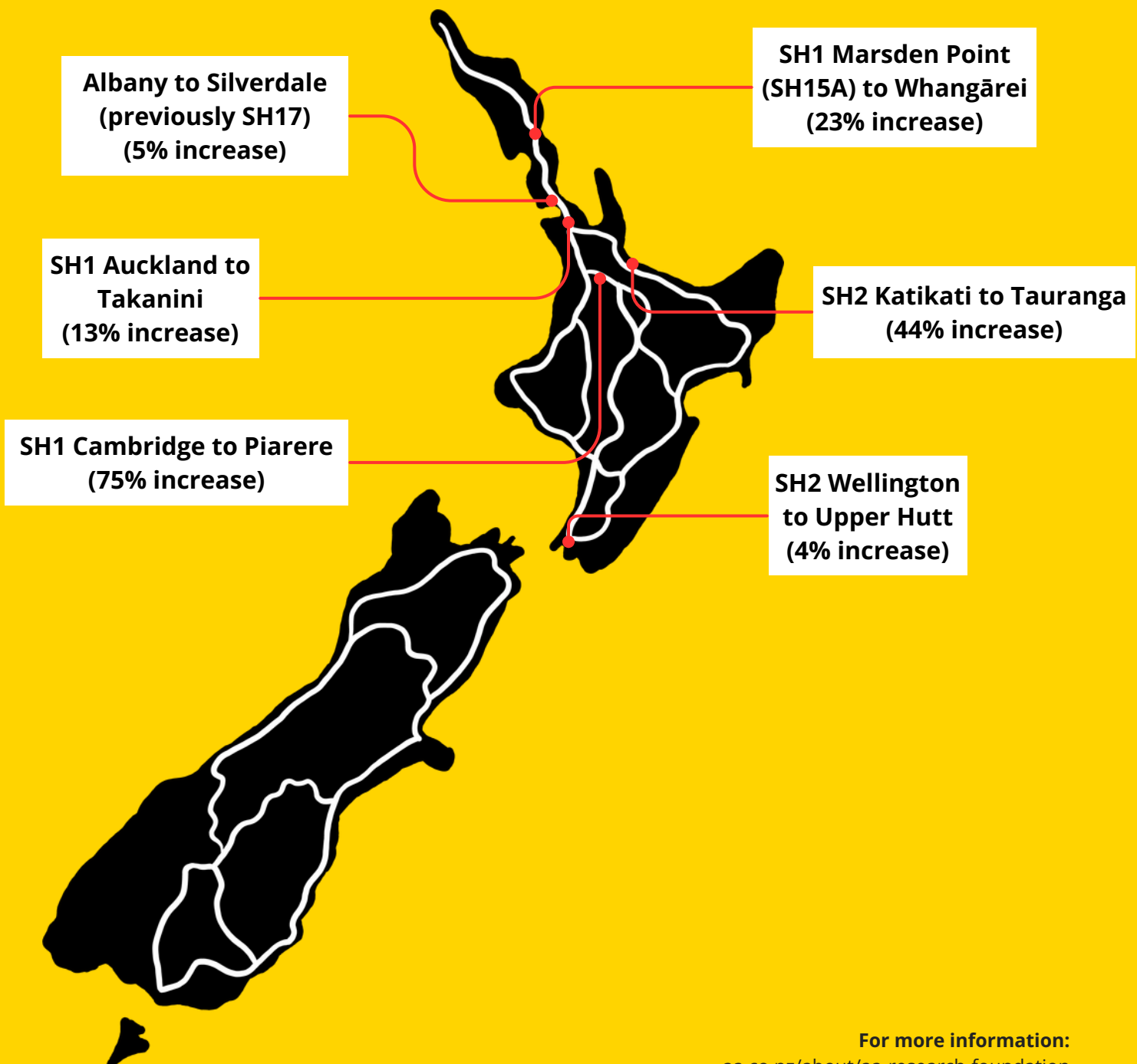


## Highways with +50% reduction in serious and fatal crashes\*



\*Significant upgrades were made to almost all these highways and some are continuing to see improvements

# Highways where serious and fatal crashes are still increasing\*



For more information:  
[aa.co.nz/about/aa-research-foundation](http://aa.co.nz/about/aa-research-foundation)

\*Ongoing improvements continue on most of these highways with some scheduled for major upgrades