

13th September 2019

Bruce Road Safety Message

Last Friday night there were several vehicle incidents on the Bruce Road resulting in callouts to police and the roading contractor for recovery. The Road Control Authority, RCA (DoC), has requested that RMCA provide the following message to the broader club network. The RMCA Council has considered the change in road management (from the RCA) for the remainder of this winter, and along with knowledge of the vehicle incidents last Friday, feel that a safety message is certainly warranted.

RMCA will be putting guidelines together for 'winter travel on Bruce Road' and will be meeting with DoC well prior to next winter to discuss and review winter Bruce Road travel, so that consistent messaging can be provided to clubs.

RMCA asks Club Committees to please ensure that all Club Members and Guests who stay at your lodge during the remainder of this winter season understand and respect that weather and road conditions on the Bruce Road can change within minutes, especially after dark. Better to engage/fit 4WD and/or chains before heading into sub-zero temperatures or think again before choosing to travel up. Any road recovery in the future is very likely to cost a lot more than a set of chains or family accommodation in a hotel at Whakapapa or National Park.

Message below from DoC, the Road Control Authority.

We, DoC, would appreciate more consideration for the dangers with arriving late at night up the Bruce Rd including what appears to be a lack of preparedness for the conditions. We appreciate this does not apply to everyone however it does raise concern for DoC in managing the Bruce Rd.

We will therefore be placing limitations on Bruce Rd access. The 'uphill' barrier will not be manned after 6pm and will be closed on Friday nights when snow or bad weather is expected. Closing of the road will apply to club patrons wanting to travel up with the health and safety of travellers being a priority.

An appropriate safety message will be displayed on the Variable Message Signs by the golf course and at the barrier as well as on RALs website.

Club patrons will need to arrive at a more appropriate time during these poor weather conditions and demonstrate winter safe road practices.

A call out and recovery fee will be applied by the Roding Contractor to cover their response costs.