

Rural road supersized

A major road-widening project on a country road leading to Batch Winery and Waiheke Aerodrome has prompted some locals to question Auckland Transport's priorities.

Carsons Road was the scene last year of a near-disaster when the rear of an Explorer double-decker bus slid off the road-edge above a steep drop.

Contractors are now about half-way through an extensive upgrading and widening of a 1.7km stretch of the road, raising conjecture that AT is more focused on making rural roads "friendlier" for large tour buses than upgrading more heavily-used roads.

However Auckland Transport says there was no lobbying from other parties to upgrade the road.

"It was identified in our forward planning three years ago as needing an upgrade," a spokeswoman says. "Parts of the road have deteriorated and the upgrade is required for safety reasons."

She says the project is expected to be finished around mid-May. The costs of the roadworks are not yet known.

• *Geoff Cumming*



The cost of the 1.7 kilometre upgrade of Carsons Road is not yet known.

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