



Penrose Bridge over height detection system is changing

The Penrose Bridge Over Height Detection System (OHDS) on State Highway 1 in Auckland is changing from 1 July 2023.

What is changing?

All the Over Height Detection System (OHDS) sensors will be set at the critical clearance height



Before the Ellerslie off-ramp (southbound) and the Mt Wellington off-ramp (northbound) if the OHDS is activated by an over height load it will display the message



If vehicles do not take the exit, the OHDS sign on the Penrose Bridge will display the message

What do I do if the OHDS warning is activated?

- Please move your vehicle into the over height vehicle lay-by.
 - Remain in your vehicle and wait for assistance.
 - Responders will be dispatched.
- If in doubt, pull over!



Maximum legal vehicle height without a permit is 4.3 metres.
If the OHDS activates, then you are at risk of striking the bridge.

Why have we changed the sensors?

- Penrose Bridge is the lowest clearance bridge above the Auckland motorway network.
- This change is necessary to reduce the damage and disruption caused by bridge strikes and keep road users safe.
- The OHDS was installed in 2015 to prevent over height vehicles/loads from striking the bridge, however since then the bridge has been subject to significant impacts resulting in costly damage.
- The most common causes of motorway bridge strikes include unsecured crane booms and digger arms, uncovered open containers, loose loads and loads that have shifted during transit.

"If you see the lights, you are over height"

Over dimension vehicle permits can be applied for at

<https://www.nzta.govt.nz/commercial-driving/permits/overdimension-permits/application-for-an-overdimension-permit/>