

Wrapped poles to keep road toll down

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An Auckland company is going global with a product designed to save lives when cars crash into off-road hazards.

PICTURE / DEAN PURCELL



SAFETY STEP: Sue Walker and Dallas James hope more councils in this country will see the merit of Raptors.

"A lot of councils' budgets have been quite constrained in the last financial year," Walker said.

The Raptor has four cartridges that act like airbags and absorb vehicle impact, as well as an outer shell of blended plastic that does not split or crack when hit by a car. James said he was not aware of similar products.

Armorflex specialises in guardrails and crash cushions and the Raptor idea grew from that.

Many road deaths followed collisions with a tree or pole, James said, and tests had shown that a passenger compartment crush reduced from 500mm, when hitting an unwrapped pole, to 10mm when hitting a pole sheathed with a Raptor.

