

MINO-476 Update on the rail protest future disruptions

14 October 2022

Update on the rail protest in Wellington on 12 October 2022 and plans for managing/preventing disruption going forward.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's response:

Wellington Transport Operations Centre (WTOC) operational response

1. WTOC manages the Wellington urban motorway 24/7, and has cameras set at key positions on the motorway to view any incidents on the state highway network. The camera system automatically picks up stopped vehicles or pedestrians on the network and sends an alarm to the Real-Time Operators and brings up the image on the main CCTV monitor wall.
2. In the protest incident on Wednesday 12 October 2022, the operator on duty was alerted to the protesters setting up in vicinity of the Terrace Tunnel. As per WTOC standard operating procedures, they closed the tunnel immediately to southbound traffic through the traffic control systems. WTOC also closed the right-hand northbound lane in the tunnel, and automatically put Variable-Message Signs (VMS) out on the urban motorway that say the Terrace Tunnel is closed and to use an alternative route.
3. Following this initial closure, the WTOC operator then informed the NZ Police and requested Traffic Response Units to go to manage the closure. During this period, WTOC operators aid the police and pass on any information it receives via its monitoring cameras. The radios are monitored to ensure that needs of the police are anticipated, such as opening barriers to get police vehicles in and re-opening the road.
4. After the initial closure, messages on social media platforms are put out to reflect the closure and Newstalk ZB Time-saver traffic Twitter account is informed. The WTOC operators then monitor traffic around the rest of the urban motorway and will suggest alternate routes for those in traffic through the use of VMS.

Wellington Transport Alliance (WTA) network management response

5. On the ground, the WTA responds to network incidents, such as protests on the Wellington motorway. The WTA's focus is providing a safe area for the NZ Police response and provide traffic control to direct traffic away from the incident onto available routes.
6. As a result of these incidents, the WTA has increased its vigilance around the transport system, supporting WTOC, and will be assessing the security features on all of our infrastructure, working with Waka Kotahi security advisors and colleagues from other regions to share learning.

Security team Protest Activity Tactical Plan

7. Waka Kotahi has developed a national protest activity tactical plan to determine security threats, accountabilities, activity threats and proposed interventions. Please note that preventing all illegal protest

activity is unlikely, given the many and varied access points to the highway network. Therefore, the approach is mitigation, where feasible, and a tactical response, as per our standard operating procedures working with NZ Police on managing events, when they occur. For some of the higher risk locations, the security team, along with NZ Police will be investigating the threat risk and potential physical mitigation measures

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