

MIN-4011 Meeting with Mayor Helen Lash, Westland District Council

14 November 2022

Providing information for the Associate Minister's meeting on Tuesday, 15 November 2022.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's response:

• Safety issues

- SH6/SH69 to Charleston will have safety improvements including roadside barriers at high-risk locations and a speed review.
- Waka Kotahi plans to resurface 300 lane kilometres of local roads, put 80,000 cubic metres of metal on unsealed roads and renew 7,500 metres of drains.
- SH7 from Reefton to Maruia Springs has been prioritised for a speed review. Blacks Point and Reefton townships will be included in the 2023/ 24 Speed Management Plan. However, speed limits on the open road sections of the corridor are still being considered.
- SH6 Greymouth to Charleston is currently being assessed on whether it needs to be included in the 2024/ 27 Speed Management Plan.
- Some other speed reductions have been requested, particularly for Hokitika Bridge.
- There may be some frustration about the inability to progress speed reviews quickly because of the new approval framework.
- Waka Kotahi is working with community groups to support the installation of speed activated warning signs to improve compliance with speed limits in some townships such as Ross, Whataroa and Franz Josef.

• Waiho River

- In June 2020, \$18 million from the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund was allocated to a shovel ready project put forward by the West Coast Regional Council to raise existing, and construct new, flood protection stopbanks on the Waiho River. The funding for this project is administered by Kānoa – Regional Economic Development Investment Unit (Kānoa – REDIU).

○ s 9(2)(f)(iv)

- In April 2021, Infrastructure Reference Group (IRG) Ministers agreed to fund phase 1 of the Franz Josef flood protection work (the northern and some of the southern stopbanks), s 9(2)(f)(iv)

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- **Other resilience issues**

- Generally, there are no issues despite a large number of heavy rain events. Mount Hercules and Fox Hills areas are more vulnerable to slips, falling trees etc compared to other parts of the network.
- Economic impact to the West Coast is estimated at \$3 million for every day SH6 south of Hokitika is closed. Waka Kotahi is fully aware of this, and responsiveness is geared for recovery as quick as possible.
- Other individual sites perceived as high risk for resilience are as follows:
 - Epitaph Slip (Knights Point) – a large slip in a geologically challenged location. This is closely monitored and there has been no recent change.
 - Wanganui and Whataroa Rivers – bridge approaches are vulnerable to flood events and are continually monitored in case intervention is required.
 - Bruce Bay – vulnerable to sea erosion but has recently been improved with extensive rock protection.
 - Gates of Haast – was extensively damaged during Cyclone Fehi event in 2019 and a substantial amount of repair work had been completed. Additional repair is still required but it is being closely monitored.

- **Hokitika pedestrian issues**

- Difficulty for residents on the eastern side of SH6 accessing the CBD.
- A crossing point is in the process of being upgraded.

- **Condition of state highway signage and other aesthetic concerns**

- Some signs in the district are faded and partially damaged, but still perfectly functional and meet the operational standards and therefore not due for replacements yet.
- Some signs and edge marker posts are prone to moss and algae build up. These are cleaned as required when their function/ performance is affected.
- Weed control and other vegetation control in urban and peri-urban areas have been raised at times. They are under control at present but may be raised again.

- **Cycle trails**

- There are ongoing projects in south Westland, which are partially funded by Waka Kotahi but are not directly managed by us.
- Seen as an important tourist activity so there is a desire to see ongoing progress.

- **Otira community initiatives**

- The community is requesting a stopping area on the highway to the south of the township.
- Waka Kotahi will not support this due to the unsafe location and potential ongoing maintenance liabilities.

- **Rock supply and quarry availability**

- There are limited locations available where good quality rock can be quarried.
- This is a critical and important resource for civil roading works on the whole of the West Coast, particularly for river and sea protection works.
- Waka Kotahi will need to have an open dialogue with stakeholders (Councils, DOC, private land owners etc) to mitigate the risk in the medium to longer term.