



MIN-4072 Talking points for Te Matatini kapa haka competition

21 February 2023

Hon Kiri Allan is likely attending the Te Matatini kapa haka competition in Auckland this week. This memo provides some talking points on key topics regarding the Associate Minister of Transport Portfolio.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's response:

Te Mātāwai is the statutory Māori language authority that is mandated by Māori to revitalise the Māori language, and is comprised of iwi leaders from across the country. Te Mātāwai are one of the key partners in the delivery of the Te Matatini kapa haka event as it is seen as one of the key events to showcase the Māori language. Te Mātāwai have recently written to Ministers about their concerns with the lack of progress with the bilingual traffic signs programme. This subject may be raised by iwi representatives at the competition. Waka Kotahi is awaiting Ministerial approval to move this forward.

Given the recent weather events, it is likely that conversations with the Minister will be centred around the ongoing flooding response. Waka Kotahi's current key messaging around emergency works is as follows:

- Emergency Works (EW) funding is part of the State Highway Maintenance and Local Road Maintenance Activity Classes within the National Land Transport Programme (NLTP) – funded primarily by the National Land Transport Fund (NLTF).
- Waka Kotahi reserves a contingency to fund EW over the 3-year NLTP, based on forecast demand using historical trends.
- Even before the events of Jan/Feb 2023, demand for EW in the current (i.e. 21-24 NLTP) had exceeded these allocations due the increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events.
- The events of Jan/Feb 2023 have clearly created increased demand for EW funding – although it's too early to judge both the scale and the pace with which funding is required.
- Recognising the essential need to provide funding in emergency events, our options, to re-prioritise funding for EW, are:
 - reprioritisation funding from other activity classes
 - seeking additional Crown funding to supplement the NLTF
- When emergency events occur, we have streamlined processes in place to facilitate quick access to immediate response funding.
- Emergency events also trigger the EW funding policy [Emergency works](#).
- The policy provides for funding at higher Funding Assistance Rates (FAR) from Waka Kotahi to meet a share of councils' costs as follows:
 - Councils' normal FAR applies for emergency works up to cost equal to 10% of a council's routine annual maintenance programme;
 - Normal FAR plus 20% (up to a maximum of 95%) for costs over the 10% threshold
 - Councils can also request "bespoke" FARs if there is financial hardship – which the Waka Kotahi Board has discretion to approve up to 100% (although typically limits this to a maximum FAR of 95%).
 - Costs for EW on state highways are met 100% by Waka Kotahi.
- In all cases, the Board's ability to support EW funding – including higher, bespoke FARs - is subject to availability of funding. The NLTF is already under funding pressure due to the combination of: lower revenue, elevated cost inflation and the increasing costs of EW.



- Waka Kotahi is committed to supporting Councils to the maximum extent that is affordable and has therefore approached the Government to discuss options for additional funding – given the constrained position of the NLTF.
- The Government will also be working closely with Councils to determine how the recovery process will be shaped, and the funding needed to support it.

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