

MINISTERIAL BRIEFING NOTE

Subject	SH43 Forgotten World Highway Improvements Kahouri Stream Bridge Sod Turning
Date	31 May 2023
Briefing number	BRI-2793

Contact(s) for telephone discussion (if required)				
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Linda Stewart	Director Regional Relationships (Taranaki/Hawkes Bay/Gisborne/Manawatu)		Section 9(2)(a)	✓

Action taken by Office of the Minister

- ☐ Noted
- ☐ Seen by Minister
- ☐ Agreed
- ☐ Feedback provided
- ☐ Forwarded to
- ☐ Needs change [please specify]
- ☐ Withdrawn
- ☐ Overtaken by events

31 May 2023

Hon Kiritapu Allan Associate Minister of Transport

SH43 Forgotten World Highway Improvements Kahouri Stream Bridge Sod Turning

Purpose

1. This briefing provides you with information about the Kahouri Stream Bridge project, prior to the sod turning event on Tuesday, 13 June from 8.00am - 9.30am.

Project funding and costs

2. The cost for the Kahouri Stream Bridge project is \$8m. This is one part of a package of improvements for State Highway 43 (SH43) Forgotten World Highway.
3. The total cost of the programme of works is approximately \$30m funded through Kānoa – Regional Economic Development & Investment Unit (previously known as the Provincial Development Unit) and the NZ Upgrade Programme.

Project features

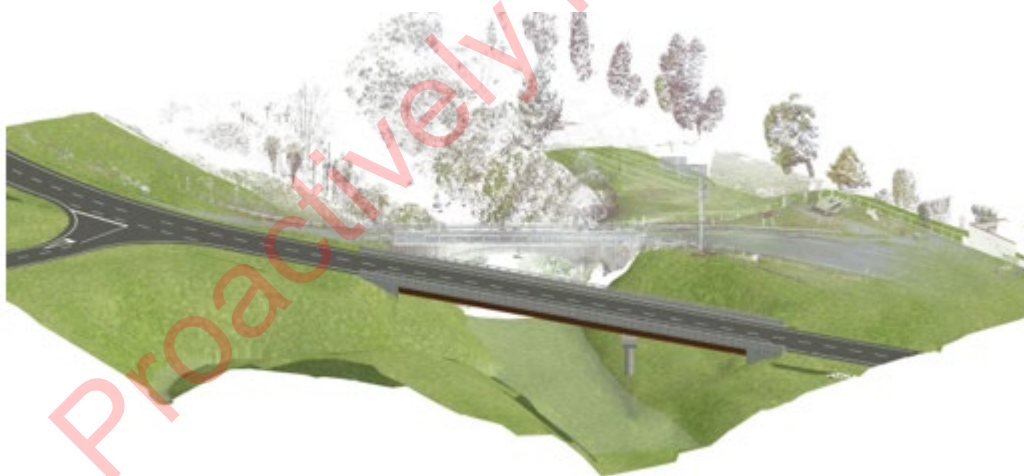
4. Key features of the Kahouri Stream Bridge project include:
 - A new 57m long two-lane bridge with two 3.5m lanes and a 1 metre shoulder across the Kahouri Stream, east of Stratford.
 - A straighter alignment approaching the bridge to increase safety.
 - The existing one lane bridge, built in 1908, will be retained as a walking and cycling bridge.

Project benefits

5. Benefits of the Kahouri Stream Bridge project include:
 - Accommodation for heavy vehicles and increased traffic volumes on the route.
 - The new alignment and wider two-lane bridge will create safer access for locals and visitors by reducing the risk of crashes.

- The original bridge will provide a safe, historic route for pedestrians and people on bikes.
6. As part of the wider SH43 Forgotten World Highway programme of works, the project will:
- Create a safer road for locals and visitors to travel on,
 - Reduce deaths and serious injury crashes,
 - Encourage more people to travel from Tongariro National Park through to Egmont National Park,
 - Increase economic activity, contributing an estimated \$35m to \$45m to the region,
 - Bring more visitors to Taranaki each year,
 - Improve the route for freight and business.

Visualisation of new bridge



Project context

7. In February 2020, Regional Investment Opportunity (RIO) funding was approved for a package of works recommended in the SH43 Forgotten World Highway Corridor Improvements' business case (excluding the sealing of Tāngārakau Gorge and two culvert replacements). The business case was funded by the Provincial Growth Fund (part of Kānoa).

8. The business case identified that completion of the programme of improvements will direct GDP gains into Taranaki of \$35-45 million over 40 years, and address improvements needed for road safety and resilience.
9. The improvements funded by RIO, totalling \$14.9m, include:
 - Improvements to the Moki Tunnel.
 - A preventative maintenance strategy for the route.
 - Kahouri Stream Bridge upgrade – a new two-lane bridge on a straighter alignment.
 - Passing opportunities, wayfinding and rest areas.
 - Safety improvements including guardrail, signage and upgraded road markings.
 - A new bridge built over a damaged culvert at Pohokura and a culvert replacement at Manawawiri Stream.
10. Physical works have been completed for:
 - Improvements to the Moki Tunnel.
 - A preventative maintenance strategy for the route.
 - Passing opportunities, wayfinding and rest areas.
 - A new bridge built over a damaged culvert at Pohokura and a culvert replacement at Manawawiri Stream.
11. Physical works are underway for the safety improvements, and the first three barrier sites have been completed. Design work for the remaining 16 sites is complete and construction will commence within the coming weeks.
12. Waka Kotahi has also completed installation of approximately 220 safety warning signs, undertaken tree removal to improve safety, and sealed selected rest areas as part of the safety and wayfinding improvements.
13. In November 2019, Provincial Growth Fund funding was approved for the SH43: *Sealing the Tāngārakau Gorge* project, to seal the 12km of unsealed road on SH43. The project was a recommendation from the SH43 Forgotten World Highway business case.

14. The sealing project, totalling \$14.4m, has been split into the following stages:

- Stage 1 – the first 2.1km was completed in 2022.
- Stage 2a and 2b – the physical works contract was executed in March 2023 with physical works occurring during the 2023/24 construction season.

Key messages

15. Key messages of the Kahouri Stream Bridge project:

- A two-lane bridge over Kahouri Stream, on SH43 east of Stratford, will provide safer access for everyone using the road.
- With twin 3.5 metre lanes and a one metre shoulder, the new bridge will better accommodate increased traffic volumes in the area and create a safer, more accessible route for trucks and the travelling public.
- The road approaching the new bridge will also be realigned to make easier to navigate, reducing the risk of crashes.
- The existing one lane bridge, built in 1908, will be retained for people to walk and cycle across.
- The new Kahouri Stream Bridge is part of an \$30m package of improvements for the Forgotten World Highway including the sealing of the Tāngarākau Gorge and safety improvements such as new signage and side barriers.
- Funded through Kānoa - Regional Economic Development & Investment Unit and the regional allocation of the NZ Upgrade Programme, the programme of works aims to make the route safer and more accessible for locals and increase tourism to the area.

Other matters

16. Ngāti Maru, Ngāti Hāua and Ngāti Ruanui iwi are working together to develop a cultural artwork for the Forgotten World Highway which is being funded from the wayfinding component of the programme.
17. Additionally, a cultural expression is being developed by Ngāti Ruanui and Ngāti Maru for the Kahouri Stream Bridge.

Ministerial Sod Turning event

18. The event will be located at 281-283 SH43, Stratford 4392.

19. Speeches and a sod turning ceremony will take place.

Key attendees to acknowledge

20. The key attendees invited for the sod turning ceremony include the following:

- Representatives from Ngāti Maru and Ngāti Ruanui (TBC)
- Neil Volzke, Mayor of Stratford District Council
- Sven Hanne, Chief Executive, Stratford District Council
- Weston Kirton, Mayor of Ruapehu District Council
- Clive Manley, Chief Executive, Ruapehu District Council

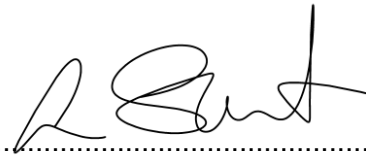
Media

21. We expect some local media interest.

22. There has been consistent coverage of the programme of works on the route by local media.

It is recommended that you:

1. Note the contents of this briefing



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Linda Stewart

Director Regional Relationships (Taranaki/Hawkes Bay/Gisborne/Manawatu)

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Hon Kiritapu Allan, Associate Minister of Transport

Date: 2023

Proactively Released