

MIN-4188 East Coast coastal shipping update

25 May 2023

Provide an update on progress towards assessing the viability of coastal shipping on the East Coast.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's response:

- Waka Kotahi is assisting Thames Coromandel District Council (TCDC) in looking at 'blue highway' resilience options, as an alternate route in the event of a significant state highway closure / disruption during recovery and post-recovery phases.
- This work includes investigations into the existing wharf infrastructure, and Waka Kotahi is working with TCDC to capture and build on these investigations to provide a shared base for advice to the Minister on 'blue highway' resilience capacity.
- Crown and TCDC investment has improved wharf infrastructure underway at Kopu and Sugarloaf on the western side of Coromandel.
- For contingency access to the eastern side of Coromandel, Whitianga has been identified as a suitable location that has existing boat ramp and wharf facilities. While these are suitable for short term emergency coastal shipping access, in the medium term these will need investment to improve capacity and health and safety requirements should the state highway be significantly disrupted.
- Should only freight be required to be moved, boat ramps and landing craft vessels can be utilised. Suitable vehicles are largely available in the area and can be readily contracted should they be needed.
- If more seaworthy vessels and/or passenger ferries are required then wharfs will need to be utilised.
- s 9(2)(j)
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- s 9(2)(j)
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- Recent equivalent examples:
 - Pukenui Commercial Wharf, Northland 2021 - \$2.4m
 - Diamond Harbour Wharf, Canterbury 2022 - \$3.0m.
- TCDC has a waterfront redevelopment underway but has further work to determine the future of the waterfront in the town. Any enhancement of wharf infrastructure will require integration with these redevelopment plans.

- s 9(2)(b)(ii)



- Waka Kotahi will be in a position to provide a more thorough update in late May/early June, as this work is progressed further.

Proactively Released