

MINO-743 Tapu-Coroglen Road

5 May 2023

Provide an update on Tapu-Coroglen Road, Coromandel.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's response:

- Tapu-Coroglen Road in Coromandel has been closed to through traffic since a section of the road collapsed into the below river earlier in 2023.
- The closure point is approximately 10.2 km from the junction with SH25 at Tapu on the Thames Coast. Properties and businesses can be accessed on either side of the collapse, but people cannot travel past it as this area is still unstable and dangerous.
- Thames Coromandel District Council (TCDC) is working towards a temporary alternative route for the Tapu-Coroglen Road that they estimate will be ready for use in June 2023, subject to weather conditions. This will be an unsealed track around the slip site.
- The temporary route will be designed for use by light traffic only and requires some infrastructure work. This temporary route will be monitored daily to ensure the safety of road users; however, any ground movement may cause the road to be closed. The route will be single lane, have limited visibility and tight corners. It will also require the creation of passing/waiting bays at either side to cater for the additional traffic on the route generated by the closure of SH25A.
- In parallel, TCDC is working on a permanent repair to the road that they estimate will be completed by December 2023 (i.e. before Christmas). However, given the unpredictable weather and geotechnical conditions in Coromandel, this estimate will require regular revisiting. This will allow the road to return to its previous state. However, it is worth remembering Tapu-Coroglen Road is a challenging road at the best of times, has a length restriction of 12.6m, and involves sharp corners and steep gradients. Therefore, increased volumes on this road will mean a heightened safety risk.
- The short-term alternative route works are funded from the National Land Transport Fund at 91 percent Funding Assistance Rate. The preferred option and the associated cost of the longer-term improvement to Tapu-Coroglen Road is still to be confirmed. Once the preferred option and cost is known, funding will be sought through future recovery funding sources.

Clarification note for proactive release:

Please note further slips were located following this advice which made the temporary route referred to unfeasible.