

MINO-733 Wellington train schedule disruption

1 May 2023

Provide information on the level of disruption experienced on the morning of 1 May 2023 from the Wellington rail schedule changes.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's response:

- Congestion on the state highway was significant compared to other Mondays, which is normally one of our quietest days on the network. Tuesday is normally the busiest day for morning congestion. This morning was comparative to a heavy Tuesday peak.
- Given the impacts to congestion this morning, Waka Kotahi expects traffic volumes on Tuesday to exceed the heavy Tuesday peaks that are normally experienced.
- The areas with increased congestion (for a Monday) were State Highway 1 at Tawa and Lindon, State Highway 2 was backed up to the Dowse interchange, and there was increased congestion at the State Highway 58/Transmission Gully interchange.
- The Wellington Urban motorway was fairly free flowing throughout the morning and the delays at the Terrace Tunnel were normal.
- Restore Passenger Rail protest activity was on The Terrace on the corner of Bolton Street between 8.15am and 8.30am. They were cleared by police and had no significant impact on the state highway network.
- Waka Kotahi has contacted Greater Wellington Regional Council regarding impacts to bus patronage. While patronage data is not currently available, they did observe that bus services appeared to be busier this morning where buses could be used as an alternative to rail services.