



Will be considered for release with redactions

## MINISTERIAL BRIEFING NOTE

<b>Subject</b>	Prime Minister's visit to Tairāwhiti 8 June 2023
<b>Date</b>	7 June 2023
<b>Briefing number</b>	BRI-2797

Contact(s) for telephone discussion (if required)				
Name	Position	Direct line	Cell phone	1 <sup>st</sup> contact
Brett Gliddon	Group General Manager – Transport Services	Section 9(2)(a)	Section 9(2)(a)	✓
Linda Stewart	Director Regional Relationships (Taranaki/Hawkes Bay/Gisborne/Manawatu)		Section 9(2)(a)	
Jaclyn Hankin	Regional Manager Gisborne/HB/Manawatu, Maintenance and Operations		Section 9(2)(a)	

### Action taken by Office of the Prime Minister

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- ☐ Withdrawn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

7 June 2023

**Rt Hon Chris Hipkins – Prime Minister**

## Visit To Tairāwhiti 8 June 2023

### Purpose

1. This briefing provides you with an update on the State Highway 35 (SH35) Hikuwai No. 1 Bailey bridge, and other roading projects in Tairāwhiti following Cyclone Gabrielle, ahead of your visit with Kuru Contracting at the Hikuwai bridge site with Minister Allan.
2. This briefing also provides you with information ahead of your visit to Leaderbrand before visiting Hikuwai bridge.

### SH35 Hikuwai No. 1 Bailey bridge opening

3. Communities between Tokomaru Bay and Te Puia Springs were cut off by road when the Hikuwai No. 1 Bridge was destroyed in Cyclone Gabrielle. This road is a lifeline for Tokomaru Bay, Waipiro Bay, Te Puia Springs and other communities along SH35 to Gisborne.
4. Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency has been working hard with Downer to reconnect these communities with a temporary Bailey Bridge since February 2023. Downer is leading this work both in respect of the site establishment and the Bailey Bridge construction.
5. In March 2023 a community-led bypass route, called Pourau Road, was opened. The bypass connects Gisborne to Tokomaru Bay and runs to the east of Hikuwai River. It was constructed by Kuru Contracting, which Waka Kotahi supported and worked with alongside Ngāti Porou.
6. A bridge blessing event will be held on Wednesday 14 June 2023 from 2.30pm to 3.30pm. SH35 Hikuwai No. 1 Bailey Bridge will be opened to traffic the following morning, Thursday 15 June at 8am.
7. The cost for the Bailey bridge is \$3 million, funded by the Cyclone Gabrielle Emergency Package.
8. Key features of the Bailey Bridge include:
  - it will be the longest Bailey Bridge in the country, at 85 metres, and closely follows the completion of the Waikare Gorge Bailey Bridge on State Highway 2 last month, reconnecting Wairoa with Napier
  - there is a 50 MAX weight limit, and also a 'one truck at a time' policy as the bridge is so long that it could not fit two due to the weight.
9. Key benefits of the Bailey Bridge include:
  - the restoration of vital SH35 connection in Tairāwhiti and Hawke's Bay

- securing the resilience of that connection while Waka Kotahi investigates long-term solutions for the area.

### SH35 Hikuwai No. 1 Bailey Bridge talking points

10. Key talking points include:

- Cyclone Gabrielle caused significant destruction to the roading network in Tairāwhiti and Hawke's Bay.
- The local community appreciates the work put in by Kuru Contracting to open Pourau Road as a bypass to connect Gisborne to Tokomaru Bay.
- While there has been a bypass in place, people have still had to limit their travel, and that's impacted communities.
- A vital connection for the communities that live and work alongside SH35 will soon be restored with the opening of the Hikuwai Bailey Bridge.
- The ability of our network to withstand the increasing number of events like Cyclone Gabrielle is crucial.
- The Government has committed \$20 million for each of the next seven years - \$140 million in total - to fund a pipeline of low cost low risk resilience works on local roads. In addition, there is funding of \$279 million spread across seven years for resilience works on state highways.
- This funding will be spent across the motu to help mitigate risks associated with climate change and reduce future emergency works funding by completing work that will help minimise damage and reduce closure times.
- Building future resilience into the transport network, as well as taking action to adapt to the environment, will be critical to delivering long-term solutions that are fit for purpose not only today, but into the future.
- Work is already underway on long-term solutions for our network and resilience and safety continue to be top of mind as those options are explored

### Further information on Kuru Contracting

11. Kuru Contracting has done work on SH35 via a sub-contracting arrangement with Downer, most notably the diversion of the Mangahauini Dam Slip just north of Tokomaru Bay

12. Section 9(2)(b)(ii)

- Section 9(2)(b)(ii)

13. Section 9(2)(b)(ii)

## Update for other works in Tairāwhiti

14. For key projects 2021-24, see appendix 1. These include:


- SH35 Resilience improvements
- SH35 Passing opportunities
- SH2 Napier to Ōpōtiki High Productivity Motor Vehicle (HPMV) upgrades
- SH2 Waioeka Gorge Resilience
- SH2 Passing opportunities
- SH2 Tahaenui Bridge widening
- SH2 Waikare Gorge
- SH35 Emergency works.

15. SH35 Low-cost low-risk projects include:

- **Road to Zero - SH35 One lane bridge upgrades:** installation of Hazard Markers, Electronic Warning Signs, One Lane Bridge Signs, Edge Marker Posts, Vegetation clearance, and the replacement of end terminals at some locations.
- **Tatapouri Hill rock fence:** the rock fence here has significantly deteriorated from rock damage and corrosion so will be replaced and lengthened. Approx 900m<sup>3</sup> of large rock will be locally sourced to replace the rock that has been washed away.
- **SH35 Arero Bluff curve easing:** there is a 35km/h curve on a bluff near Arero Road that some trucks have issues negotiating when approaching from opposite directions. Sight benching and curve easing could reduce severity and difficulty trucks experience at this location. Geotechnical investigations are planned to inform a design.
- **SH35 Tatapouri intersection improvements:** installing a right turn bay here which also involves shoulder re-grading, potential drainage channel re-shaping, re-shaping accessway (that is opposite carpark) and pavement construction etc (allowing for the width of the two ahead lanes, a 3m right turn bay and adequate shoulder widths). Safety engineers are doing a full assessment before we move to a detailed design.

16. Cyclone recovery and rebuild – Tairāwhiti/Wairoa Strategic Resilience Approach

- In response to the damage caused by Cyclone Gabrielle, a significant programme of emergency works is underway to restore connections. The status of key routes in Tairāwhiti/Gisborne is outlined in Appendix 2.
- Waka Kotahi is also developing the Tairāwhiti/Wairoa Strategic Resilience Approach, which seeks to identify and prioritise recommended programmes of works to address the short, medium and long term resilience requirements of the strategic transport network. The ranges of funding required is also being identified.

- The work covers SH35, SH2 (Eskdale too Ōpōtiki) and SH38 and local roads where they form alternative routes to the strategic (state highway) network.
- Local councils are involved in the planning, which is drawing from and building on existing strategic work already done in the region but applying a stronger resilience lens. We are also providing information on the project to Iwi as Treaty partners and taking their lead on how they would like to be involved.
- s9(2)(f)(iv) 
- It is likely that a number of strategic options will require further investigation and analysis, including further understanding of community and iwi aspirations and opportunities to uplift regional economic development.

### Meeting with Leaderbrand

17. Key stakeholders, including Leaderbrand, have been engaged early on regarding Cyclone Recovery work up State Highway 2 north - firstly regarding foam bitumen stabilisation work currently underway as well as an extensive asphaltting programme to get underway from Monday 19th June until September 2023. Both projects received good support from our key stakeholders, particularly freight.
18. Leaderbrand is major employer, and key stakeholder in the region, who are heavily reliant on the state highway network for transportation of fresh goods and produce. As such, Waka Kotahi seeks to engage with Leaderbrand on a regular basis regarding maintenance work across the network, as well as project specific engagement such as the SH2 Waioeka Gorge Resilience.

### It is recommended that you:

1. **Note** the contents of this briefing.

.....  
**Brett Gliddon**

Group General Manager – Transport Services

# Tairāwhiti Gisborne

## key projects 2021-24

### Key



Safety project



Walking & cycling project



Access project



Resilience project



Freight efficiency



Port



Key routes



### PROJECT STATUS

- delivered
- underway
- yet to start

Projects specifically funded by:

**PGF**

Provincial Growth Fund

**NLTF**

National Land Transport Fund

SH35 Te Puia Springs to Ōpōtiki speed review

SH35 emergency repair works

SH35 resilience improvements

**PGF**

**PGF**  
**NLTF**

SH2 passing opportunities

SH2 Waioeka Gorge safety and resilience business case

**NLTF**

**NLTF**

SH2 Napier to Ōpōtiki HPMV upgrades

Gisborne

SH35 passing opportunities

**PGF**  
**NLTF**

SH2 Waikare Gorge realignment and bridge

**NLTF**  
**PGF**

SH2 Tahaenui Bridge widening

**NZUP**

SH2 passing opportunities


**PGF**  
**NLTF**

SH2 Napier to Gisborne HPMV upgrade


**NZUP**

# Gisborne


Key




Road closed  
(No vehicle access, may be a Waka Kotahi worksite)



Emergency access only  
(Emergency services, Waka Kotahi, utility providers)



Controlled access  
(Local residents and other contractors, no general traffic)



Open with conditions  
(Localised traffic management, speed and bridge restrictions)

Map most recently updated at **Wednesday 31 May 8:00am**.  
The maps will be updated weekly on Tuesdays, or by exception as sections of the network change status.

Check Journey Planner for the latest information on network changes and road closures at [journeys.nzta.govt.nz](https://journeys.nzta.govt.nz)



## General Gisborne

Work continues across the region to restore levels of service. Proactive works continue on SH2 between Ōpōtiki and Gisborne to hold the route over winter. Bypasses around the Hikuwai Bridge #1 and Mangahauini Gorge remain in place.