



Will be considered for release with redactions

MINISTERIAL BRIEFING NOTE

Subject	State Highway 35 Hikuwai Bailey Bridge Opening
Date	7 June 2023
Briefing number	BRI-2782

Contact(s) for telephone discussion (if required)				
Name	Position	Direct line	Cell phone	1 st contact
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- ☐ Withdrawn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

7 June 2023

Hon Kiritapu Allan - Associate Minister of Transport

State Highway 35 Hikuwai Bailey Bridge Opening

Purpose

1. This briefing provides you with information about the State Highway 35 (SH35) Hikuwai No. 1 Bailey bridge, prior to the bridge blessing event on Wednesday, 14 June 2023 from 2.30pm to 3.30pm. Note the bridge will not open to traffic until 8am the following morning.

Project funding and costs

2. The cost for the SH35 Hikuwai No. 1 Bailey bridge of the Cyclone Gabrielle Recovery is \$3 million, funded by the Cyclone Gabrielle Emergency Package.

Project features

3. Key features of the SH35 Hikuwai No. 1 Bailey bridge include:
 - It is the longest Bailey bridge in the country, at 85 metres, and closely follows the completion of the Waikare Gorge Bailey bridge on SH2 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 trucks due to the weight.

Project benefits

4. Key benefits of the SH35 Hikuwai No. 1 Bailey bridge include:
 - The restoration of SH35, a vital connection in Tairāwhiti and Hawkes Bay
 - Securing the resilience of that connection while Waka Kotahi investigates long-term solutions for the area.

Project context

5. Approximately four months after SH35 Hikuwai Bridge No. 1 was severely impacted due to Cyclone Gabrielle, the state highway is soon to be reconnected by a temporary Bailey bridge.

6. The project was initiated in partnership with landowners and mana whenua of the area, enabling the work to get underway quickly and the connection to be restored.
7. The project involves construction of the temporary Bailey bridge, approximately 85m long, spanning the Hikuwai River. The bridge will re-connect this state highway.
8. 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 Gisbourne. Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency teams have been working hard to reconnect these communities with a temporary Bailey bridge since February 2023.
9. In March 2023, a community-led bypass route, called Pourau Road was opened. The bypass which connects Gisborne to Tokomaru Bay runs to the east of Hikuwai River. It was constructed by local business Kuru Contractors, which Waka Kotahi supported and worked with Ngāti Porou to enable the public access once it was built.

Key messages

10. Key messages of the SH35 Hikuwai No. 1 Bailey Bridge opening include:
 - Cyclone Gabrielle caused significant destruction to the roading network in Tairāwhiti and Hawke's Bay.
 - A vital connection for the communities that live and work alongside SH35 has now been restored, with the opening of the Hikuwai Bailey bridge today.
 - While there has been a bypass in place, people have still had to limit their travel, which has impacted communities.
 - The ability of our network to withstand the increasing number of events like Cyclone Gabrielle is crucial.

Other matters

11. There have been claims that Waka Kotahi is not working fast enough. With the bypass route having been open since March 2023, there could be some criticism around the length of time to completion.
12. Strong concerns have been raised by iwi and hapū along SH35 that their needs have not been prioritised or listened to. Resulting in the perception of a low level of

investment, and therefore, lower levels of service than the community believe are acceptable.

13. 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.
14. 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.
15. 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.
16. 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.

You have received the following advice on this subject:

17. #318 Weekly Report WE 3 March 2023
18. #319 Weekly Report WE 10 March 2023
19. Cyclone Gabrielle Recovery Activity - Weekly Update 17 March 2023
20. #321 Weekly Report WE 24 March 2023
21. Cyclone Gabrielle Recovery Activity WE 24 March 2023
22. Cyclone Gabrielle Recovery Activity WE 31 March 2023
23. Cyclone Gabrielle Recovery Activity WE 7 April 2023
24. #324 Weekly Report WE 14 April 2023
25. Cyclone Gabrielle Recovery Activity WE 14 April 2023
26. Cyclone Gabrielle Recovery Activity WE 21 April 2023
27. Cyclone Gabrielle Recovery Activity WE 28 April 2023

28. Cyclone Gabrielle Recovery Activity WE 12 May 2023
29. Cyclone Gabrielle Recovery Activity WE 5 May 2023
30. Cyclone Gabrielle Recovery Activity WE 26 May 2023
31. #330 Weekly Report WE 26 May 2023
32. #331 Weekly Report WE 2 June 2023 UPDATED
33. Cyclone Gabrielle Recovery Activity WE 2 June 2023

Ministerial opening

34. The event will be located at Hikuwai No.1 Bailey Bridge, State Highway 35, Mangatuna, Gisborne. Guests are invited to join us on the south side of the bridge.
35. Speeches and a ribbon cutting ceremony will take place.

Key attendees to acknowledge

36. The key attendees invited for the event include the following:

- Local community mana whenua/landowners:
 - Section 9(2)(a), Kaumatu,
 - Section 9(2)(a), Kaumatua
 - Section 9(2)(a), Chairperson, Pourau Incorporation
 - Section 9(2)(a)
- Contractors, Downer
- Section 9(2)(a) Ministerial Inquiry Panel and Regional Transport Committee
- Rehette Stoltz, Mayor of Gisborne
- Josh Wharehinga, Deputy Mayor of Gisborne
- Section 9(2)(a), Ngati Porou
- Section 9(2)(a), Ngati Porou

- **Section 9(2)(a)**, Ngati Porou


Media

37. We expect a lot of local and some national media interest.

38. Recent media coverage of the Bailey bridge construction has included an update on its progress and of the blessing by mana whenua that took place in March 2023, prior to construction starting.

It is recommended that you:

1. Note the contents of this briefing.



Linda Stewart

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

.....
Hon Kiritapu Allan, Associate Minister of Transport

Date: 2023