

MINISTERIAL BRIEFING NOTE

Subject	East Coast (Hawke's Bay and Tairāwhiti) recovery site visits – October 2023
Date	28 September 2023
Briefing number	BRI-2876

Contact(s) for telephone discussion (if required)				
Name	Position	Direct line	Cell phone	1 st contact
Linda Stewart	Director Regional Relationships (Taranaki/Hawke's Bay/Gisborne/Manawatū)	s 9(2)(a)	s 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- ☐ Withdrawn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

28 September 2023

Hon David Parker – Minister of Transport

East Coast (Hawke's Bay and Tairāwhiti) recovery site visits – October 2023

Purpose

1. This briefing provides you with information ahead of your Hawke's Bay and Tairāwhiti (Gisborne) recovery site visits from 2 to 4 October 2023.

Context

2. Hawke's Bay and Tairāwhiti regions have been impacted by a series of severe weather events, with Cyclone Gabrielle having the most significant impact in February 2023.
3. Recovery of transport networks has been ongoing since February 2023 and in some cases, is expected to take several years.
4. Ongoing immediate works to be undertaken in Hawke's Bay and Tairāwhiti and Wairoa over the next two years include:
 - over-slip clearing and stabilisation
 - tree removal
 - rockfall and slip protection (walls and mesh)
 - under-slip repairs, retaining wall repair and build
 - river and road edge scour repairs/ rockfill
 - drainage clearing due to silt inundation
 - drainage repair and replacement
 - secondary flow-path repair and installation
 - pavement and seal repairs and replacement
 - silt and slash removal
 - guard rail and barrier replacement
 - bridge repairs – piers and abutments, scour protection and removal of debris.

5. On 28 September 2023, the Waka Kotahi Board will consider endorsement of the Hawke's Bay Resilience Strategic Response business case and the recommended broad work programme, which outlines mid to long term rebuild and resilience options.
6. The Tairāwhiti Wairoa Resilience Strategic Response business case and recommended broad work programme has already been endorsed by the Waka Kotahi Board.
7. We continue to work with the Government on how the two Resilience Strategic Response business cases and recommended broad work programmes may be progressed and funded.

Alliance/involvement of local contractors

8. On 11 July 2023, an agreement for a recovery alliance was signed. The Transport Rebuild East Coast Alliance (TREC) is a collaboration between Waka Kotahi, KiwiRail, Fulton Hogan, and the existing maintenance contractors for the two regions: Downer and Higgins.
9. TREC will lead the design and delivery of physical works on the state highway and rail networks over the coming years.
10. As of 1 October 2023, TREC will take over responsibility for the existing recovery sites on the state highway network in Hawke's Bay and Tairāwhiti. At the same time, TREC will work on the mid to long term rebuild and resilience works.
11. TREC is looking to utilise local resource and contractors. TREC recently held workshops with local contractors as well as an expression of interest process. Some of these workshops have been held in Wairoa.

Ministerial site visit

12. Most of the sites you will visit are areas of recovery following Cyclone Gabrielle and other severe weather events.
13. Throughout the visit you will be accompanied by Linda Stewart, Director Regional Relationships (Taranaki/Hawke's Bay/Gisborne/Manawatū)
14. Key sites you will visit include:
 - **Esk Forest Slip:** The bulk of the earth works and drainage at the Esk underslip site, between Glengarry and Te Pōhue, has been completed. Kerb and channel, pavement, surfacing, and signage works is ongoing. Depending on conditions on the ground, this work could be largely complete at the time of your visit.
 - **Devil's Elbow:** The installation of anchors to support the road and ensure worker safety has been completed. These anchors will stay in place until a fix to two lanes is constructed. Work on longer term design options is progressing.
 - **White Pine Bush slump site:** Temporary repair works are complete. Soil continues to move (particularly during rain) and monitoring equipment is in place. Work on longer term design options is underway at the White Pine Bush underslip site.
 - **Waikare Gorge realignment:** This project includes 4 kilometres of road realignment and a new 160 metre bridge across the Waikare Gorge. This is a longer-term resilience option that will greatly improve safety, resilience, and access for communities. This project was started

before Cyclone Gabrielle and is now being considered in the context of wider rebuild/resilience options.

- **Mohaka Hill underslip:** Two design and pricing options for the repair of the Mohaka Hill underslip are being reviewed.
- **State Highway 2, Gisborne to Waioeka Gorge:** This stretch of state highway suffered extensive damage during Cyclone Gabrielle. It also saw traffic volumes increase due to the closure of State Highway 2 to Wairoa. We're improving the resilience of the area with an extensive asphalting programme from August to October this year. A mobile asphalt plant is being used for this work. Future resilience options are also being considered for this area.
- **State Highway 35:** The highway was severed at Hikuwai Bridge #1 as well as through the Mangahauini Gorge (north of Tokomaru Bay) by a landslide following Cyclone Gabrielle. During your drive along State Highway 35 from Gisborne to Ruatoria you will see these sites, including the completed Hikuwai Bailey bridge that was opened in June 2023. Future resilience options are also proposed for this area.
- **State Highway 35 at Kopuaroa Hill:** This project aims to stabilise State Highway 35 at Kopuaroa Hill, approximately 10 kilometres north of Te Puia Springs. Work started on this site in September 2022 and was scheduled to take three months to complete but was severely affected by the multiple rain events the region suffered through last summer. One site on this section has just been completed as part of the Tairāwhiti Roading Package programme of projects across the northern Hawke's Bay and Tairāwhiti regions. The head contractor for this site is local Ruatoria based H Blackbee Contractors.

Funding

15. On 31 July 2023, the Government announced \$567 million for recovery works on state highways in Tairāwhiti, Wairoa, Hawke's Bay, Coromandel, and Northland. This funding comes from the \$6 billion National Resilience Plan announced in the Government's May 2023 Budget.
16. The \$567 announced in July was on top of the \$525 million already provided to Waka Kotahi in the aftermath of the cyclone.
17. Recommended future works to rebuild and improve the resilience of sites in Hawke's Bay and Tairāwhiti have been costed from a Capex and Opex perspective. These estimates are subject to Cabinet consideration.
18. Tairāwhiti and Wairoa transport network immediate works funding includes:
 - State Highway 2 Ōpōtiki to Gisborne/Gisborne to Waikare Bridge: \$39 million
 - State Highway 35 Gisborne to Hick's Bay: \$18 million
 - State Highway 35 Hikuwai No. 1 Bridge replacement and State Highway 35/ State Highway 2 Bailey bridge removal and replacement of Bailey bridge stock: \$140 million
 - State Highway 38 Wairoa to Lake Waikaremoana: \$8 million
19. Hawke's Bay transport network immediate works funding includes:
 - State Highway 2 Napier south to Waikare Bridge: \$120 million

- State Highway 5 Napier to Waipunga: \$24 million
- State Highway 50 Napier to Takapau: \$6 million

Project benefits

20. Cyclone recovery and rebuild:

- Over the next 18 months, ongoing recovery works to restore the state highway network to a functional level on the East Coast will continue. This work supports more reliable and equitable critical lifeline access, and a safer state highway network.
- Future rebuild works will be focused on improving the resilience of the state highway network longer-term. We need to design and construct differently for the future, with new ways of thinking and collaboration at all levels.

Key messages

21. Waka Kotahi is addressing both short term recovery (to keep roads open and ensure access), and mid to long term rebuild opportunities (to improve the resilience of roads and rebuild smarter).
22. We endorse a locally led, regionally driven, centrally supported approach to the ongoing recovery, and rebuild. We are committed to developing our relationships with local communities to ensure we meet their current and future needs, improve outcomes with and for Māori, and leave a positive legacy for future generations.
23. The urgency of our initial emergency response recovery work gave little time to engage with communities on the future. The work was immediate and focussed on getting our state highways open. With this now achieved, there is time now to work with communities in rebuild planning, sharing ideas for the medium to long term and making it happen.
24. While recovery and rebuild work is underway, we will continue with routine state highway maintenance, and safety, resilience, and walking and cycling projects that were underway before Cyclone Gabrielle.

Other matters

25. Cyclone Gabrielle and other weather events caused significant damage to Tairāwhiti's land, infrastructure, economy, and community. Many impacts are still being felt today and the continued vulnerability of communities and infrastructure to future weather events has been evidenced by further heavy rainfall events in June 2023.
26. S 9(2)(j)

Your office has received the following briefings on this subject:

27. BRI-2712 Cyclone Gabrielle Recovery, 17 February 2023
28. BRI-2714 Cyclone Gabrielle – Special legislation needed, 22 February 2023
29. BRI-2813 East Coast Recovery Alliance Signing event, 10 July 2023

30. BRI-2843 Transport Resilience Fund: Revised Investment Programme for 2023/24. 14 August 2023

Media

31. No media will be invited.
32. It is likely that local media may hear about your visit and approach you for comment.

Proposed meeting with Wairoa Mayor, Craig Little

33. Wairoa suffered extensive damage during Cyclone Gabrielle.
34. Mayor Craig Little is in his fourth term as Mayor of Wairoa.
35. Wairoa District Council has had \$48,027,549 approved from Waka Kotahi through the emergency response post Cyclone Gabrielle.

Proposed meeting with Gisborne Mayor, Rehette Stoltz

36. Mayor Rehette Stoltz is in her second term as Mayor of Gisborne.
37. Gisborne District Council has had \$68,302,820 approved from Waka Kotahi through the emergency response post Cyclone Gabrielle.
38. Waka Kotahi has a good relationship with the Mayor.

Proposed meeting with Tairāwhiti REAP

39. A partnership between the Tairāwhiti REAP and Waka Kotahi is making it easier for more people in Tairāwhiti to gain their driver licence, and benefit from the rewards of being licensed.
40. The Tairāwhiti trial is one of the initiatives being undertaken by the Driver Licensing Improvement Programme (DLIP) – a cross agency programme led by Waka Kotahi.
41. A key factor in the success of the trial has been the flexibility offered by new Community Driver Testing Officers (CDTOs). They work for community providers and test students who have completed a community driver licence support programme.
42. CDTOs test people being supported by a community provider for a Class 1 driver licence. As well as offering more flexibility around test times, they provide more pastoral support for students.
43. Learnings from the community trials are being fed into the programme as we develop the future state of the driver licensing system.
44. The personal impact of the community initiatives on the lives of people in Tairāwhiti is evident in the following clip: Te Tairāwhiti driver licensing trial - https://youtu.be/9W_iNNAZkuw

Proposed meeting with Tairāwhiti iwi chairs' forum

45. The Tairāwhiti iwi chairs' forum is made up of the chairs of the four iwi of Te Tairāwhiti:

- s 9(2)(a) (Ngati Porou)

- s 9(2)(a) (Rongowhakaata)
- s 9(2)(a) (Ngai Tamanuhiri)
- s 9(2)(a) (Te Aitanga a Mahaki)

It is recommended that you:

46. Note the contents of this briefing.



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Linda Stewart,

Director Regional Relationships (Taranaki/Hawke's Bay/Gisborne/Manawatu)

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Hon David Parker, Minister of Transport

Date:

2023