



The road is long – SH35 repair work update

Waka Kotahi is working hard on a long-term recovery plan for State Highway 35. Some of what we're seeing is damage to areas that have previously been impacted by bad weather, but a lot of what we are seeing is new damage following the March and April weather events, in places where we haven't had issues previously. Our priority is maintaining access to communities along the route, recognising that all who live and work on the coast rely on this roading connection as an important lifeline.

This access needs to be maintained while we carry out major repairs at approximately 15 sites and minor repairs at around 800 sites. These sites include a number of SH35 Resilience and SH35/SH2 Passing Opportunities projects that were underway or due to start, such as work at Tatapouri Hill (which will get back underway in September) and Busby's Hill.

With major design works, consents and extensive culvert work to complete, as well as the region's business-as-usual state highway work, we have a big job ahead of us. We are working through how and when we will address each site, with much of the work unable to get underway until the drier construction season later this year. This includes the unsealed sections of highway that need suitable weather and temperatures for pavements to be laid.

More information

Between now and October, Waka Kotahi will be working on construction planning and physical works like those outlined above. We will share these details with our communities as we have them, so stay tuned to the Connecting Tairāwhiti website nzta.govt.nz/projects/connecting-tairawhiti and sign up to the e-newsletter for updates at ConnectingTairawhiti@nzta.govt.nz

Our Gisborne-based investment advisor is also working closely with Gisborne District Council to process their emergency funding application.

Winter is here, but work is still happening

While these wet, cold months mean certain types of work can't be undertaken, our teams continue to be busy carrying out repairs.

A lot of the work happening is out of sight of motorists, like fixing abutments under bridges and clearing piers.

Upcoming work along the highway includes restoring the single-lane section alongside the Mangahauini River to two-lanes by moving the road over. This means the temporary traffic lights will be removed; however, it will remain unsealed until the warmer months.

All SH35 work will be scheduled on regular days and times of the week to ensure consistency for motorists. Traffic management will be put in place after the morning peak and lifted before the usual school run hours.

What's been achieved since the weather event?

- Reconnecting the Mangahauini Bridge
- Clearing and stabilising the slip at Makorori
- Work to reinstate the Huia Hill drop-out
- Completion of designs for Oweka drop-out north of Hicks Bay
- Vegetation clearance at multiple sites in preparation for works
- Skid resistance safety improvements works along the entire length of SH35
- Preparation work to ensure our recovery programme is ready to start enabling works in October
- Approximately 3000m² of road surface remakes to improve the safety and rideability of the pavement caused by land subsidence and drop-outs
- Completion of the Mangahauini rock revetment project where the southbound lane was lost due to river scouring

- Completed repairs to the Mangahauini sheet pile retaining wall to provide support to the northbound lane of the highway. Without these emergency repairs, the northbound lane could not have been opened
- Completed repairs to the underside of vulnerable bridges between Tokomaru Bay and Hicks Bay to re-establish river erosion protection



Above: A birds eye view taken north of Tokomaru Bay. Work to restore the state highway to two lanes has been completed alongside one of the critical sections of the Mangahauini River.



Above: Also north of Tokomaru Bay, the hillside has been excavated and the state highway shifted over to avoid a drop-out alongside the Mangahauini River



Above: Drone shot of work to clear the Makorori Slip (Photo: Ben Cowper)