
SH25 / SH25A Thames – Coromandel update 1

July 2017

This update is produced by the NZ Transport Agency and provides the latest information on the situation with State Highways 25 and 25A in the Coromandel. To register for future updates please email coromandel@nzta.govt.nz

SUMMARY OF THE CURRENT SITUATION

The Coromandel Peninsula has experienced a large amount of rainfall over the past five months, including three severe weather events in March / April 2017. Between the beginning of March and the end of June, around 2.5 metres of rain has fallen on the hills of the Coromandel Peninsula.

As a result, there have been 182 weather related events on SH25 and SH25A since March 2017 including fallen trees, power lines down, wash outs, slips and flooding. This has resulted in a large number of road closures over the past few months.

SH25 and SH25A are important routes and we know road closures are frustrating, both for locals and holiday-makers. We are fully committed to re-opening SH25A as quickly as possible to re-connect communities and get businesses running as usual. Equally, we need to prioritise the safety of our workers and road users as the first priority.

There is still a risk of further slips occurring, especially after heavy rain. We would like to remind people travelling around the Coromandel Peninsula, and particularly those using SH25 Thames Coast Road, to drive to the conditions and at a speed where you can stop in the distance ahead that you can see.

It is also important to check our website for the latest information about road closures or work happening on the road before you travel. For details on how you can stay up to date, refer to the bottom of this update.

WORKING ON A LONG TERM SOLUTION

Work is beginning over the next month on five sites on the Thames Coast Road where rock falls or slips have occurred this year. This work will reduce the risk of further rockfalls or slips at these locations and protect the road from further erosion. Including the initial emergency response, the total repair cost for these locations comes to \$2.4 million. Additionally a further seven resilience projects are planned around the rest of the peninsula designed to both protect the road and reduce the risk of rock falls. This is expected to cost \$1.9 million.

As part of our road maintenance programme, \$8.13 million is expected to be spent repairing and resealing the road pavement on State Highways 25 and 25A in the Coromandel over the next three years. That's an increase from \$4.72 million spent in the last three years.

In the long term the Transport Agency is committed to develop a joint programme of work with Thames–Coromandel District Council that recognises the unique challenges of the Coromandel Peninsula. Together we will look at improving road safety and network resilience and how this can enable economic development and tourism opportunities. This detailed scope and decision to proceed with this work will be made with Thames–Coromandel District Council and other potential project partners including industry sectors, community boards and Iwi. As these details are finalised, they will be made available on our project webpage, listed below.

Development of this programme is scheduled to commence from 1 July 2018, subject to support through the Regional Land Transport Plan.

The Transport Agency has identified opportunities to make improvements as to how access is provided to local residents when there are closures. We are working with the Thames–Coromandel District Council to develop a better way of doing this, as part of an incident management plan for the Coromandel Peninsula.

HOW TO STAY UP TO DATE:

More information on Thames–Coromandel state highways:

- Webpage: www.nzta.govt.nz/thames-coromandel
- Sign up for updates: coromandel@nzta.govt.nz

Other sources of traffic and travel information:

- The key traffic and travel source which provides up to date information on roads is www.nzta.govt.nz/traffic
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NZTAWaikatoBoP>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/NZTAWaibop>
- Drivers can also call 0800 4 HIGHWAYS (0800 44 44 49) to speak to the call centre team who can provide traffic and travel information
- MetService severe weather warnings can be found at <http://www.metservice.com/warnings/severe-weather-warnings>