

TREC Pānui

East Coast recovery and rebuild mahi



“Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, engari he toa takitini”
Success is not the work of an individual, but the work of many

TREC Pānui is a monthly newsletter from the [Transport Rebuild East Coast \(TREC\) Alliance](#) updating communities across Te Tairāwhiti (Gisborne) and Te Matau a Māui (Hawke's Bay) about the work being done to rebuild state highway and rail networks impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle.

Kia ora koutou

Wet weather in the past couple of weeks has again impacted the East Coast resulting in flooding, evacuations and slips. And more recently State Highway 2 (SH2) was closed after a large slip occurred between Kotemaori and Putorino. The road is now opened to two lanes following safety assessments.

This ongoing rainfall is challenging for affected communities given the intensity of weather events over the past few years.

Huge thanks to all the crews who were out clearing slips and debris and opening roads so people could safely use the network.

In such events TREC monitors the road and carries out inspections on state highways including geotechnical engineers undertaking inspections.

Long term we are investigating and designing solutions for the region's roading infrastructure to better withstand these weather events, which we discuss in further detail in this Pānui.



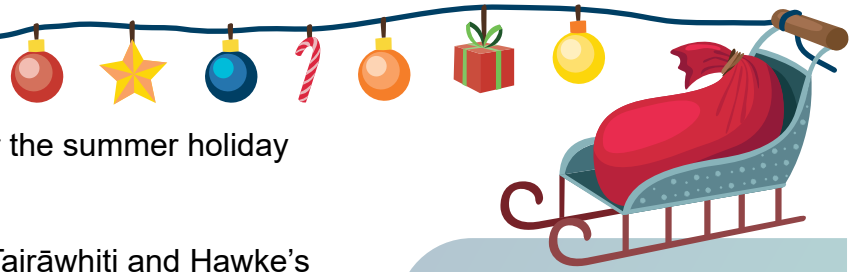
SH2 slip clearing under geotechnical guidance and monitoring



Clean up at Gladstone Road Bridge in Gisborne

Transport Rebuild East Coast

Safe summer driving



Whānau and friends getting together over the summer holiday break also means busier roads.

There will be many work sites across Te Tairāwhiti and Hawke's Bay to navigate - some will be our summer maintenance work, and some will be where we're fixing weather damage to help make the roads safer and stronger.

- To reduce delays to those travelling over the Christmas break, TREC will temporarily close most work sites from Thursday 21 December to Monday 8 January 2024
- There will still be reduced speed limits, traffic cones and one lane sections with traffic lights in places. Please take care and follow all signs and temporary speed limits.

Be patient and kind with the teams on site – they're working hard to help keep everyone safe on their journey. We want to make sure everyone gets home to their whānau after each shift.

From all of us here at TREC we hope you have a safe and happy Christmas!



Look after road workers - they're part of your community (NZ Transport Agency)

How to keep yourself and others safe this summer:

- Check your car is safe to drive: check tyres, lights, indicators, windscreen, and wipers are all in good working order
- Review the weather forecast and [real-time traffic updates](#) for any incidents or closures to help plan your travel
- Drive to the conditions: consider the weather, the road, time of day and traffic volumes
- Keep speeds down, maintain a safe following distance, and stay alert
- Always drive sober
- Watch for signs of fatigue and share the driving if possible
- Be patient and leave plenty of time for your journey

Community drop-in sessions in 2024

In the first few months of 2024 the TREC team will host community drop-in sessions across Tairāwhiti and Hawke's Bay including in Wairoa.

We want to share information about the TREC programme of work and how it relates to communities, listen to your feedback and answer any questions.

We invite you to come along to share some kai, learn about planned work, meet the team and have a chat. Dates and locations will be confirmed early next year.

Some of the work underway



Thank you for your patience and for helping to keep our people and other road users safe while this essential work is done.

The following work (and timeframes) may change if there are weather events or other issues we have to work around, but we'll keep you updated on any major changes.

Restoring two lanes to more sections of SH2 2

Work is underway to get four sections of cyclone-damaged SH2 between Wairoa and Napier back to two lanes before Christmas at White Pine Bush, Mautaua (north of Kotemaori), Te Ngarue north of Tangoio, and Sandy Creek, near Putorino.

Rebuilding these sites where they've slipped away includes installing new drainage and replacing the damaged road surface.

Subject to weather and other conditions, crews are scheduled to be on site:

- SH2 Sandy Creek (south of Putorino): **Until Wednesday 20 December**
- SH2 White Pine Bush: **Until Wednesday 20 December**
- SH2 Mautaua underslip (north of Kotemaori): **Until Thursday 21 December**

Some of the recovery work will be temporary to get these roads back to two lanes while longer term rebuild fixes are investigated.

Waikare Bridge demolition 2

Work to demolish Waikare Bridge had to pause during recent wet weather and high river levels. 'Completing the job and tidying up the site is expected to be done in early January (weather permitting).

The demolition and debris removal is important:

- to allow for unrestricted flow of the Waikare River during weather events
- so the next stage to rebuild a more durable bridge can get underway.

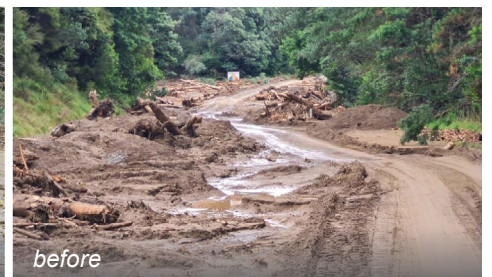


SH5 Elands and Esk underslips 5

Crews have completed repairs at the Esk underslip between Glengarry and Te Pōhue. The bypass built in March to go around the slip has now been landscaped, hydroseeded and restored back to how it was

before it became a temporary road. The large underslip at Elands has also been fixed.

The road was sealed and is back open to two lanes.



Getting Captain's Culvert back to two lanes on SH5

5

There's only one final single-lane section left on SH5, the Captain's Culvert site between Te Pōhue and Te Hāroto. Our team is confident the large dropout will be backfilled by Christmas and the road reopened to two lanes.

One other site near the underslip (inlet site of the culvert) needs fixing with work due to start in early 2024. The plan is that this road will be able to stay open to two lanes during this work.



Backfilling large drop out at the Captain's Culvert (SH5)



Washout and damaged culvert near Frasertown

SH38 progress on underslips

38

Repairs to a washout and damaged culvert around 4km west of Frasertown (pictured) are on schedule to get this back to two lanes by Christmas.

Over recent weeks, crews have repaired two underslips near the Waikaretaheke river by building a buttress (a strengthening structure) against

the slope to prevent further erosion. Once resealed, the sites will return to two lanes.

Two remaining underslips at the Waikaretaheke river and an underslip at the Waiau river will be repaired using a similar buttress solution. Works are scheduled to start in January.

A busy summer ahead for road maintenance in Tairāwhiti and Hawke's Bay

Part of TREC's work is to carry out maintenance on the East Coast state highways. The crews work as quickly and safely as possible to limit disruptions while creating safe, durable roads.

All Hawke's Bay state highways have planned maintenance for the summer with over 150 maintenance sites. Work at those sites includes chipseal and asphalt road resurfacing to both waterproof the road and provide better grip along with drainage repairs to give the

roads a longer life. Of these sites, 104 of them are resealing work on SH2.

On SH2 within the Tairāwhiti boundary, there are ten planned pavement rehabilitations (where existing pavement is "minced up" then treated with cement and re-laid with a new seal applied) along with 42 reseal sites.

On SH35 there will be pavement renewals and reseals through to the end of January.

Where there will be significant disruption the Napier asphalt sites will be done at night.



Busy summer for road maintenance ahead

Introducing TREC lingo



Rebuilding safe and resilient roads

Before a freshly rebuilt road can be sealed, there are many considerations to make sure it's efficient, safe, effective, and durable – and this work takes time.

Planning, design and construction specific to the East Coast includes considering the local ecological, archaeological, cultural, safety, and sustainability needs.

East Coast geology presents a challenge. It's estimated that 26% of the region's land is susceptible to severe soil erosion, compared with only 8% of all land in New Zealand.

In many cases, standard engineering can be adapted to suit a site and work can happen relatively quickly to make it safe for road users, and more robust in wet weather.

Other sections will be complicated and take longer to design and build to cope with future extreme weather events. A lot of work is needed to understand the geology of the site, the risks involved and how to design a road that is fit for purpose. It is important that we work with the environment to build durable infrastructure that meets people's needs.

Here are some terms TREC will use during the recovery and rebuild work and what they mean.

Recovery

Shorter-term work to restore the state highway and rail networks to a functional level to keep them open and operational. Includes slip clearing, stabilisation and protection, river and road edge scour repairs, drainage works, road surface repairs and replacement and guardrail/barrier replacement.

Rebuild

In many places state highway and rail networks remain particularly vulnerable to ongoing weather events and significant investment is needed to fix the damage and minimise future disruption. In those places some recovery work might be temporary and longer-term fixes will be needed to help them perform effectively, minimise disruptions, and adapt to changing conditions (including climate change).

Underslip

This occurs on the downhill side of the road and road users may not even see it. They don't always directly affect the road's surface but pose a risk if unaddressed. When a section of the road's surface and foundation has dropped away either from an underslip or other erosion, we call it a dropout. These usually occur in hill country with weak geology, or in areas near the coast or rivers. They can happen suddenly during a storm event.



Overslip

An overslip is when material comes down onto the road from a bank or hill above it. They're also called landslides. Soil and soft rocks on the East Coast don't need much rain to cause an overslip.



Procurement and recruitment

Contractor sessions in January

We're working with local skilled and experienced contractors, suppliers, and professional services who understand road and/or rail building and the East Coast whenua.

Due to the recent weather across Tairāwhiti and Hawke's Bay, which has resulted in further clean-up for contractors on top of their usual busy workload in the lead up to Christmas, we've moved our Contractor and Suppliers hui in Wairoa, Gisborne, and Napier to late January 2024.

In the meantime, we're happy to respond to any questions and meet with you, if needed. Please contact us via procurement@trec.nz and we'll get back to you.

We look forward to confirming new dates and times for the contractor sessions in 2024.

Recruitment

TREC is advertising for a variety of roles and is focused on getting as many local people as possible onto the programme. While providing opportunities we're mindful of not taking critical roles away from other recovery organisations.

Interested in working for TREC?

- Email jobs@trec.nz
- Search TREC on Seek or TradeMe to see our current vacancies
- Follow our [LinkedIn page](#)

Introducing TREC Project Director

Tony Gallagher



Heading up the TREC programme is Tony Gallagher, a chartered professional engineer with 35 years' experience in the construction industry. And, of those 35 years the previous decade has primarily been in post-disaster infrastructure recovery and rebuild.

Tony served as the Project Director of the North Canterbury Transport Infrastructure Recovery (NCTIR) alliance, which reconnected communities in Kaikōura with the rest of New Zealand following the 2016 earthquake, which closed rail and road networks.

Tony also has experience with the Christchurch earthquakes' recovery and rebuild as the Construction Manager for the Stronger Christchurch Infrastructure Rebuild Team (SCIRT) alliance.

"We understand how much Cyclone Gabrielle has impacted the wider East Coast community on the back of other weather events over the past few years. People are tired and frustrated," says Tony.

Tony's focus is for TREC to work with East Coast communities to deliver stronger highways and rail for a thriving East Coast community.

"TREC needs the support of locals including the contractors to both repair the state highways and rail in the area, and build in improvements to help withstand future weather events. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to get it right.

"Despite the uncertainty and anxiety of 'what next' people often feel after a disaster, the local community is providing an incredibly warm welcome to our team as we come together, which we really appreciate. It's a privilege to be working on such an important programme with the people in this region."

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We value your feedback. Please get in touch if you have any questions or thoughts for the team.

This newsletter provides the latest information about the rebuild of state highway and rail networks damaged by Cyclone Gabrielle in 2023. TREC Pānui is produced by the Transport Rebuild East Coast (TREC) Alliance.