

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.

One year ago

This month marked one year since our state highway and rail network felt the full force of the cyclone. Our thanks to the roading crews, contractors and teams who have worked so hard to restore access on our state highways, from the immediate clean up to the

ongoing rebuild. The support and warm welcome towards our crews from communities is heartening.

Restoring safe, efficient, and resilient access for communities continues to be our top priority.

Kia ora koutou

Welcome back to TREC Pānui. TREC's work programme for 2024 is ramping up quickly as we get underway at more sites across the East Coast and continue with those we were already working on in 2023.

We're working with many local contractors to fix the highways and there's more work and sites coming. A big thank you to the crews out there in the summer heat making it happen and to all road users for your patience.

Some parts of the state highways which temporarily reopened to two lanes over the summer break to help keep busy holiday traffic moving, are now going back to one lane under traffic management. This is so we can do essential recovery work on these routes while also planning for longer-term solutions at specific sites.

Over the coming months, routine maintenance activities (such as pavement maintenance, line marking, and signage) is also increasing so we have safer state highways before winter.

As work ramps up, we'll be looking for more people in a number of roles to join the TREC team. If you're interested, search 'TREC' on Trade Me Jobs and Seek.co.nz or email jobs@trec.nz.

While work is underway to strengthen state highways the network does remain fragile to intense wet weather, and this can result in short-term road closures if debris or slips need to be cleared. The best way to stay up to date with closures is through the NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) [Journey Planner](#).



Crew out at the Devil's Elbow culvert building a retaining wall

Transport Rebuild East Coast

TREC by the numbers

Maintenance



100kms of lane renewals in the summer maintenance programme

Recovery



420 sites identified for recovery work as of 23 February 2024. Of those:

- 133 recovery sites completed and maintained by TREC
- 51 recovery sites in construction
- 161 in design

Rebuild



In addition to the recovery sites, there are many more rebuild sites where longer-term fixes are needed to help state highways perform effectively, minimise disruptions, and adapt to changing conditions. Initial work to scope out these sites is underway.

Who does what on the East Coast?

Transport Rebuild East Coast



TREC is responsible for:

- Short term recovery to keep state highways open and running.
- Longer-term investigation, design and rebuild of affected parts of the state highway network to build back stronger and smarter for the future.
- Maintenance and operations of the state highway network day to day.
- Longer-term investigation, design and rebuild of the rail line in Hawke's Bay impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle.

The NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) will continue:

Safety, resilience, and walking and cycling projects which were underway before Cyclone Gabrielle.

Your local council

Working alongside your local council:

Your council is responsible for maintaining local roads, which are not state highways. TREC is working with East Coast councils to coordinate the recovery and rebuild of roads across the region to limit disruption and ensure everyone has enough resource to deliver this work.

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.

Tairāwhiti Gisborne

Recovery work in Tairāwhiti is in full swing. Here are the numbers:

264 sites have been identified for recovery.

Of those sites:

- 123 sites are completed and will be maintained by TREC
- 19 sites are in construction
- 72 sites are in design

Some of the significant and noticeable sites under construction are in and around Mangahauini as well as along State Highway 2.



Excavator at the SH35 Mangatuna River

Repairing dropouts in Tairāwhiti

A massive thanks to the crews who have repaired two dropouts in Tairāwhiti on State Highway 35.

The road surfaces and foundation at the two sites, one near Te Puia and one near Tikitiki, dropped away after Cyclone Gabrielle.

Asia Pacific Limited (APL) worked on the Te Puia site while Blackbee Contractors completed the work at Tikitiki.

“Both companies have done a great job and it’s been great to have locals from Ruatoria delivering these solutions for their communities,” says Site Manager Tony Hampson.

The state highway at these sites was reduced to one lane of traffic while work was undertaken. They are now open to two lanes.



Te Puia: Construction underway (left) and near completion (right)



Tikitiki: Drop out before (left) and repair underway (right)

Te Matau a Māui Hawke’s Bay

Recovery sites differ in the scale of damage incurred and repair work required. Here is a breakdown of the numbers for Hawke’s Bay.

156 sites have been identified for recovery, of those:

- 10 sites are completed and will be maintained by TREC
- 28 sites in construction
- 89 sites are in design stage

To follow is a closer look at a selection of sites across Hawke’s Bay where construction work is ongoing to keep state highways open and operational.

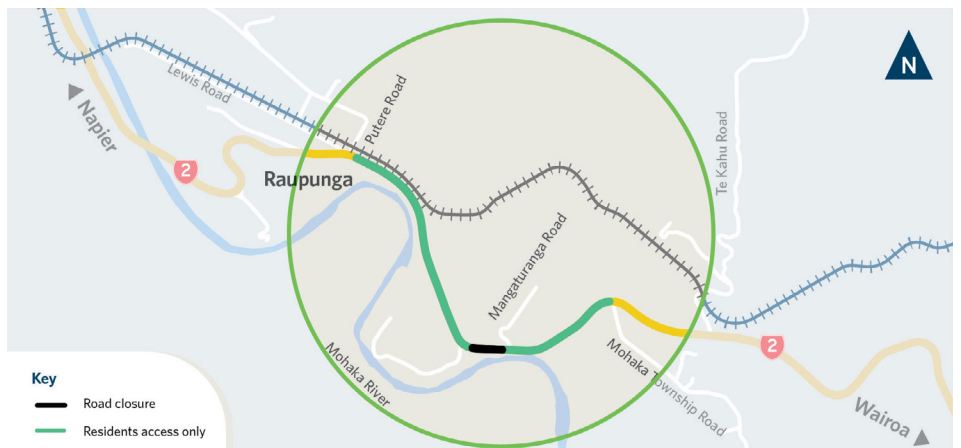


Crews at a Waikaretaheke Stream Underslip

Raupunga, Hawke’s Bay – Mangaturanga Bridge Repairs

TREC is doing repairs on the Mangaturanga Bridge. Overnight closures are in place from 9pm - 5am each night from Monday 26 February to Friday 1 March. Outside of these hours, the bridge is managed under temporary traffic lights 24/7 between Monday 19 February to Friday 8 March. In the event of bad weather, we may have to reschedule work, and will provide updates on [Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency – Hawke’s Bay and Gisborne Facebook page](#).

Thank you for your patience and understanding while these essential repairs take place.



Waikare Gorge Bridge demolition

2

We have finished demolishing the old Waikare Gorge bridge on State Highway 2 and clearing all the surrounding debris. Work was paused during wet weather and high river levels at the end of 2023, but we have been back on site in 2024 to complete the job. A big thanks to the roadworkers putting in the hard mahi so far.

Pre-construction work continues at Waikare Gorge on the safety realignment. In the coming weeks abseilers are taking geo-tech samples for analysis from the abutments of the new bridge site, and drilling rigs are carrying out geotechnical investigations and sampling. Excavators will be carrying out trial pits to check the engineering properties of the existing ground and soil to help us understand what we'll be building in and on. We will also be surveying the alignment.



Removing the old SH2 Waikare Gorge bridge (NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi)

A retaining wall continues to be built along the Gorge and pavement reinstatement is set to start this week before barriers will be installed.

Other projects on State Highway 2

Meanwhile along other parts of SH2 there is one way traffic management in place. This is at points along Devil's Elbow as work is undertaken to stabilise areas and as we keep working on the Devil's Elbow culvert.

Construction will soon begin at an underslip at White Pine Bush and it is expected there will be one lane traffic management in March and April.

Improvements on SH5

5

SH5 was reopened temporarily to two lanes during the summer break and Waitangi Day, to allow for the greater volume of holiday traffic to move as freely as possible. Work has resumed with several sections reduced to one lane at various locations, with variable lengths and duration.

As more sites are readied for construction this will become a very busy highway to travel. Please plan for up to thirty extra minutes of travel time. That's how much the delays could add up to overall along this route.

Captain's Culvert

5

Work continues at Captain's Culvert with minimal disruption to traffic. Hydroseeding (a planting process using seed and mulch) is complete, which will help to secure exposed material from further weather damage. There is also a temporary stream diversion option being looked at to help avoid flooding in heavy rain events.

Safety improvements

5

There are eight safety improvement projects planned on SH5 this year. Work is underway at two sites with another site starting in the next couple of weeks. Between Eskdale and Waipunga we are widening the road shoulder, installing roadside safety barriers and rumble strips (audio tactile profiles), and painting structured linemarking and a wider centreline to improve the safety of various high-risk curves.

We will also be making safety improvements to the Tarawera slow vehicle bay by removing old lines and re-painting new lines to widen the centreline and road shoulder, as well as painting structured linemarkings and installing rumble strips.

Expect some delays on the highway and continue to plan ahead.



Crew pouring concrete at a SH5 site



KiwiRail is undertaking Make Safe works on the rail network between Napier and Wairoa.

Make Safe works are temporary works intended to stop the line/rail corridor from deteriorating further and to keep people and property safe until long-term options are developed.

This is not full repair work. KiwiRail is continuing to prepare its application for funding for long term repairs.

Make Safe works include things such as clearing culverts and drains, removing debris from across the track/corridor, cutting and removing sections of hanging rail track, hydroseeding, and stabilising slopes to prevent ongoing slips.

Hydroseeding helps to secure exposed material from further weather damage.

Upcoming work in Eskdale

Site setup work began in early February and we will be carrying out Make Safe works in Eskdale into late April.

The works will include:

- Cutting and removing kilometres of damaged rail and sleepers from KiwiRail's rail corridor;
- Transporting of track sections and sleepers off site by truck; and
- Clearing any debris from the rail corridor and stabilising silt to prevent further deterioration.

How this will impact you:

- Work will be carried out between Monday and Friday from 7am to 5pm and on Saturdays from 7am until 2pm. We are not planning to undertake any work on Sundays.
- There will be some local noise, from cutting steel and some use of heavy machinery – the noise should be limited.

- There will be more trucks than usual on the roads around Eskdale – so please be cautious when driving in the area.
- Works will be discussed with the relevant land owners, as required.



Rail line in Eskdale immediately after Cyclone Gabrielle

Coming to you: community drop-in sessions

The TREC team will be hosting community drop-in sessions across Tairāwhiti and Hawke's Bay including Wairoa in the coming months. This will be an opportunity to learn about who we are, what we do and to share your views to help shape plans.

We are really looking forward to meeting you, to show what has been done and to hear your thoughts.

We will update you of the details of these events once they are finalised, through a special edition of this Pānui.

Local partner profile: SCL

Delivering TREC work has a double benefit for Hawke's Bay based civil construction company SCL in providing work for its employees and pride in being part of the East Coast's rebuild.

"We hire locally and our team as well as some of our plant and business workflow were affected by the cyclone last year. It really impacted every facet of the business, so it has been fantastic for us to have TREC work available, alongside our current projects," says General Manager, Bailey Gair.

"It is also really cool and morale boosting for the business to know that we are taking part and continuing to contribute to rebuilding the infrastructure network where our employees' and our clients' real lives are."

SCL was founded about three years ago and is made up of locals who have worked in civil construction in Hawke's Bay for about 20-30 years. They are building a TREC site office at Kaiwaka and doing work on SH5 including widening the road and pavement rehabilitations (where existing pavement is "minced up" then treated with cement and re-laid with a new seal applied).

The company was involved in the initial response and recovery after Cyclone Gabrielle and out of the adversity came a stronger sense of togetherness.

"Our team has been together a long time and despite the challenges we became closer as a team. Everyone showed their resilience and we just had to be quite nimble," says Bailey.

All in a day's work: protecting the environment

It's not all excavators, concrete mixers, and traffic management in TREC's scope of work. Behind-the-scenes is TREC's Environment team, responsible for protecting ecosystems, waterways, archaeological sites, and mitigating risks to these.

TREC Environmental Advisor Melissa Tran-Trung is part of this team. She works alongside site engineers and construction teams to prevent negative impacts from construction on the whenua, plant and animal life, and waterways. TREC has a responsibility under the law to protect these.

Melissa was out on site at Devil's Elbow before Christmas as concrete was being poured. She worked alongside the site crew from early in the planning process to manage the risk of concrete seeping into the stream on site.

"Concrete in a stream is a high risk activity as it can impact the pH level of the water, elevating it and causing fish and other living organisms to die," says Melissa. "The crew did a great job mitigating the risk by laying down polythene to create a safe channel into which to pour the concrete."

Melissa tested the water upstream and downstream before the pour to check pH levels and continued to test and monitor the pH level while the concrete was poured.

"Fish and other aquatic animals are very sensitive to abrupt changes in the water pH. This is why careful planning and prevention are the best solutions."

Another key part of the job is discussing with contractors what they need to be aware of on-site environmentally and when to give the Environment team a call.

"I love my job as I get to work alongside such a wide variety of people. It's a great mix of office and out on-site work, and I am contributing to a positive legacy for the East Coast for future generations."



Melissa testing the water quality at Devil's Elbow

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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.