MIN-3978 Visit to the Marlborough region

28 September 2022

The Prime Minister is visiting the Marlborough region on 29 September 2022. We are providing an update on the Marlborough recovery post the severe weather event in August 2022.

General update

- Approximately 3,700 faults across the road network have been identified to date, with some sections of the Marlborough local road network yet to be accessed and assessed (e.g. D'Urville Island, together with sections of network that are hard to access). The number of faults identified is more than double the number identified in the July 2021 weather event.

- Marlborough District Council (MDC) has written to Waka Kotahi requesting for *Recovery* funds targeted for the July 2021 weather event, unspent to date, to be reprioritised to this latest event (the total unspent to date is expected to be approximately $42 million).

- MDC has estimated s 9(2)(g)(i) . This cost estimate will need to be reviewed, once full assessment has been completed. A review will then need to be undertaken to determine longer-term, sustainable transport outcomes.

- Planning for the State Highway 6 (SH6) closure to restore the route back to two lanes has begun with initial info sharing with the Council led 'Multi Agency Recovery' forum in order to understand if there are key dates to avoid.

- Waka Kotahi System Manger is actively liaising with Mayors and Local Council Recovery Managers, to ensure consistent understanding of transport solutions and timeline for recovery solutions, is maintained.

- Freight groups and communities are continuing to receive updates via email, social media and website to ensure they are informed about the current situation.

State Highway specific update

a. SH63 Renwick to St Arnaud
   - The route was opened to public on midday Saturday, 10 September 2022, between Leatham Road and St Arnaud.
   - In order to open this road, significant works were undertaken by the Marlborough contractors & subcontractors at the Branches Bridge. The works included river training, revetment, settlement slabs and backfill and guardrail construction, with further river retraining underway.
   - Scour against damaged road at 'The Wash' has been repaired and a temporary chipseal surface has been laid. Due to multiple failures during recent storm events at this site, Waka Kotahi will look to consider this site to be a candidate for enhanced resilience works.

b. SH6 Nelson to Blenheim
   - Conditions on SH6 are largely stable with the vast majority of the fault sites repaired, which enabled the road to open between the two main centres on Wednesday, 31 August 2022. However, there are several sections still down to one lane. Design work is underway to determine the full recovery

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options, and once confirmed, will require several months to restore the highway back to two lanes, and may require full closure of this route for a period of time, to expedite the works.

c. SH6 Rocks Road

- Rocks Road is now open to all road users with minor width restrictions in two locations resulting in cyclists needing to merge with general traffic.
- A private retaining wall (the cliffs) above the road failed putting road users at risk during the event. The wall has been stabilised, however further works may be required.
- We are continuing to monitor the Tahunanui Slump (a significant slump that slips and typically sticks during periods of extreme rainfall).

d. SH6 Atawhai

- A barrier and a bund were constructed on 15 September 2022 at 51 Tui Glen site along with the removal of the most at risk rocks on 20 September 2022.
- This was done as the rock retaining wall above the road has failed and put road users at risk.

e. SH 60

- Takaka Hill – Two underslips became mobile during the event and are being monitored. Likely dewatering upslope will be key to manage road user risks.
- Birds Hill (between Takaka & Collingwood) – Significant underslip approximately 12m deep occurred during the severe weather event. The highway is currently open to one lane, however, investigations and optioneering for a permanent solution are currently underway.

f. SH1 Blenheim to Picton

- Underslip near passing lane on Picton Elevation site, is being monitored.

Option Identification/ Recovery Scope

- Supplier representatives have been tasked to identify options at eight complex road drop out sites on SH60 and SH6. The initial geotechnical investigations and concept optioneering is largely complete.

- Detailed design is now underway in collaboration with the road maintenance construction team.

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Photos

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Storm Photos - SH63

Before at Branches River

Reinstatement Progress at 03/09/2022

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