

1 November 2024

██████████
██████████
██████████@nzme.co.nz

REF: OIA-16633

Dear ██████████

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 8 October 2024 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). I will respond to parts of your request in turn as follows:

The number of unplanned closures on State Highway 1 between Artillery Rd and Waipua Gorge Rd (basically the Brynderwyn Hills) in Northland in the past three years up to October 2024 and the top three reasons for closures.

In addition I would like to know how long the longest unplanned closure on that portion of State Highway 1 lasted and the reason for it.

In 2023 State Highway 1 (SH1) over the Brynderwyn Hills was closed in both directions for 36 days and closed southbound only for 37 days – a total of 73 days. A breakdown is outlined in the following table:

Date	Single/both lanes	Duration (days)
12 January 2023	Single lane (southbound)	1
28 January 2023	Both lanes	7
4 February 2023	Single lane (southbound)	6
15 February 2023	Both lanes	14
1 March 2023	Single lane (southbound)	30
17 April 2023	Both lanes	14
9 May 2023	Both lanes	1
Total closure time		73

It should be noted that the Auckland Anniversary weekend floods and Cyclone Gabrielle weather event started on 27 January and 5 February 2023 respectively.

During 2024, as part of critical recovery works, the road was closed in both directions from 26 February 2024 for a total of 115 days (apart from six days over Easter 2024). This planned closure was expected to reopen in mid-May 2024 but a slip in April 2024 delayed this and the road was closed until 26 June 2024. This was a planned closure whereas the closures outlined in the table were due to unforeseen weather events.

There were no unplanned closures of over 12 hours between October 2021 and 1 January 2023.

What portion of State Highway in New Zealand has the most unplanned closures in the country's state highway network - how many and the main reason for.

For the three-year period from 8 October 2021 to 8 October 2024, Auckland South experienced a total of 360 unplanned state highway closures, and 12 of these were longer than 12 hours. SH1N – which covers the area from Warkworth to Auckland city centre and Papakura to Pōkeno – experienced the most closures with a total of 217. Of these, 10 were longer than 12 hours.

In line with NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) policy, this response will soon be published on our website, with personal information removed.

If you would like to discuss this reply with NZTA, please contact Megan Heffield, Media Manager, by email to megan.heffield@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'A D Clark', written in a cursive style.

Andrew Clark
National Manager, Maintenance and Operations