

MINISTERIAL BRIEFING NOTE

Subject	Auckland Harbour Bridge protest report back
Date	25 July 2022
Briefing number	BRI-2541

Contact(s) for telephone discussion (if required)				
Name	Position	Direct line	Cell phone	1 st contact
Brett Gliddon	General Manager, Transport Services	s 9(2)(a)		✓

Action taken by Office of the Minister

- ☐ Noted
- ☐ Seen by Minister
- ☐ Agreed
- ☐ Feedback provided
- ☐ Forwarded to
- ☐ Needs change [please specify]
- ☐ Withdrawn
- ☐ Overtaken by events

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25 July 2022

Minister of Transport

AUCKLAND MOTORWAY PROTEST REPORT BACK

Purpose

1. This briefing provides you with information about the impact on the network from the 23 July protest action which was staged from SH1 Khyber Pass to SH1 Gillies Ave southbound, and then back in the Northbound direction on SH1.
2. While we have not had sufficient time to analyse the traffic data or to complete heat maps, we are able to provide what was seen visually on the day.

Network impacts

3. Protest events looking to occupy the motorway network are becoming more frequent as it causes Auckland wide disruption. Waka Kotahi and partner agencies approach each protest differently depending on the specific nature of the event. BRI-2412, which was provided to your office in March 2022, included a number of examples of recent protest action on the Auckland state highway network.
4. On 23 July the observed traffic congestion was spread all over the network, including on the link to SH1 from SH16.
5. Queues on SH1 were as far back as Ellerslie (2km estimate) for the northbound closure, and Esmond Road (7km estimate) for southbound closure. Closure of the motorway also caused congestion on SH20 and the Waterview Tunnel.
6. During this event a number of acts that caused additional safety concerns, including members of the public that were caught in the congestion became frustrated, with some observed throwing bottles. There were also vehicles turning around on the motorway and travelling in the opposite direction to get off the motorway.
7. Road Closure times:

Road	Closed	Reopened
SH 1 Khyber Pass Rd on-ramp southbound	11:37am	12:42pm
SH1 Southbound Mainline at Khyber Pass Road	11:41am	12:04pm
SH1 Northbound mainline at Market Road	11:57am	12:25pm
Khyber Pass Road eastbound traffic and westbound traffic from Park Road	11:37am	12:42pm

8. Protest vehicles BLOCKED SH 1 SB lanes again at 12.18hrs driving at a crawling pace blocking traffic.

Image 1: 11:58am - Protestors walking on the motorway



Image 2: 11:42am - SH1 southbound full closure adjacent to Khyber Pass Onramp.



Image 3: 11:57am - SH1 northbound full closure adjacent to Market Rd offramp



Image 4: - SH1 northbound, vehicles turning around and going the wrong way on the motorway.

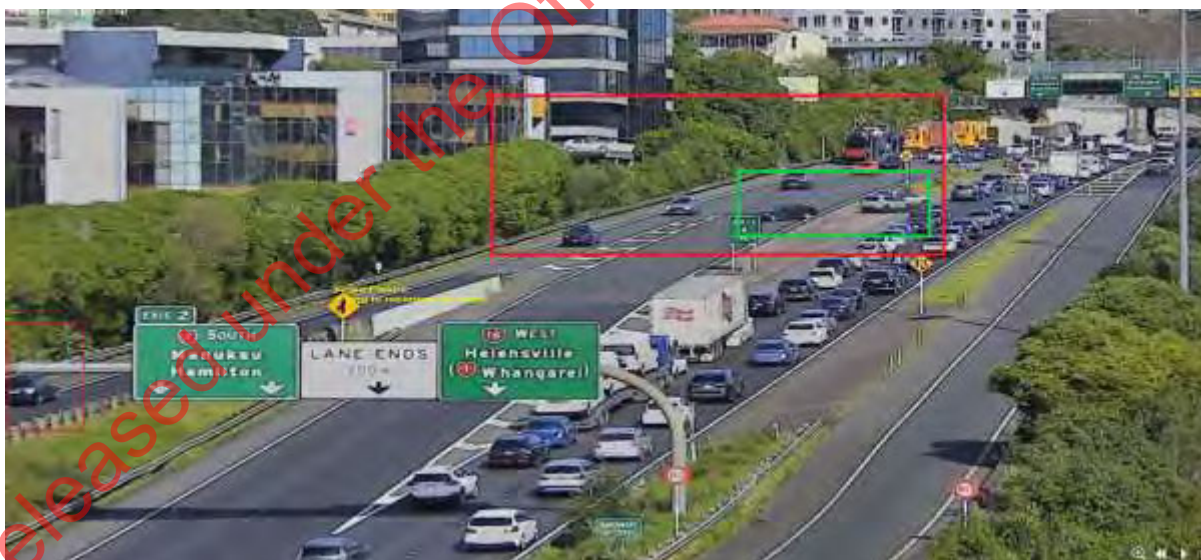


Image 5: - SH1 northbound queues back to Ellerslie.



Image 6: - SH20 queues going into Waterview Tunnel



Image 7: - SH1 Southbound Central Motorway Junction.



Image 8: - SH20 Southbound Massey Road queues.



Communications and Engagement

9. Waka Kotahi works closely with the New Zealand Police to support the safe and efficient operation of the Auckland transport system during unpermitted demonstrations or activity on a Waka Kotahi managed asset.
10. Intelligence received from Police on 21 July suggested that this would be a local road protest with unknown numbers. Further intel from Police late on 22 July suggested that there would be a low risk of protestors accessing the motorway, but this was unconfirmed.
11. Police Command received intel from the ground that the protest group was looking to walk along the motorway between Khyber Pass and Gillies around 10:00am on 23 July. This was immediately

relayed to the Auckland System Management and Auckland Transport Operations Centre. This resulted in a 1hr and 45mins lead time between intel and motorway closure.

1. **Note** the contents of this briefing



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Brett Gliddon

General Manager Transport Services

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Hon Michael Wood, Minister of Transport

Date: 2022

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