

MIN-3912 July weather event #4, 22 July 2022

22 July 2022

Update on emergency works site around the East Coast/Bay of Plenty and Tasman regions following significant rainfall and network failures. Further updates will be provided proactively as the situation evolves.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's response:

- A National Emergency Response Team (NERT) has been stood up due to the overnight developments across the country. This is due to the situations now being of national importance rather than isolated in the regions only.
- There are two critical areas currently – East Coast/Bay of Plenty and Tasman.
- Weather is subsiding over the weekend, before picking up again on Monday and Tuesday. This allows a window to complete temporary repairs so at least one stable lane is open to traffic on SH6 and temporary access for light vehicles on SH35.
- It is expected that travel volumes will increase on some of the affected roads due to the end of school holidays. Maintaining access for emergency supplies is of importance.
- A significant amount of local roads have also been impacted by the weather event.
- Civil Defence Emergency Management has been stood up by Ōpōtiki District Council.

State Highway 35 between Ōpōtiki and Gisborne

- Motu River
 - Around 9pm 20 July 2022, the road was closed to all traffic after the eastbound lane from the centreline collapsed into the river.
 - Work is being done to stabilise the westbound lane, with the goal to open the single lane on Sunday between 7am and 6pm, and on Monday potentially between 6am and 7am, and again between 5pm and 6pm. This will allow work to continue on the interim solution, while allowing traffic to move through the site at certain times for the community.
- Kopuaroa (north of Te Puia Springs)
 - Due to the risk of truck roll-overs and the narrow lane width at Kopuaroa, SH35 will be closed to heavy vehicles with trailers after 11.59pm Friday 22 July. Truck and trailer units travelling before 11.59pm Friday 22 July will need to proceed with caution through the site.
 - After 11.59pm Friday 22 July, heavy vehicles with trailers will be turned around at Ruatoria and Te Puia Springs. Heavy vehicles without trailers will be allowed through the site.
 - A temporary solution for the corridor is likely 3-4 weeks away.

- Due to some heavy vehicle drivers and operators threatening to drive through the site, regardless of restrictions, increased messaging will be used to make operators aware of the risks. Mitigation such as additional police presence or camera monitoring to deter heavy vehicles from driving through the site.

State Highway 2 between Gisborne and Ōpōtiki – at Matawai

- There has been no further deterioration of the underslip at the site at Matawai.
- A guard rail is being installed and will then be measured to confirm width restriction. It is likely that over-dimension vehicles will not be able to travel through the site.
- A permanent solution is 6-8 weeks away.
- The slips on SH2 at Waioeka Gorge have been cleared, allowing both lanes to be open to traffic from 5pm yesterday.

State Highway 36 between Rotorua and Tauranga – at Mangapouri Bridge

- State Highway 36 between Rotorua and Tauranga was closed to all vehicles from 10am today to 7pm Friday 22 July for repairs at Mangapouri bridge. The alternative routes are SH2 and SH33 through Pāpāmoa and Paengaroa, or SH5 / SH28 / SH29 over the Kaimai Range.
- The plan to reopen the road for 7pm tonight is on track.
- The abutment of the single-lane Mangapouri bridge has scoured resulting in a hole beneath the road and uneven surface on the bridge deck.

State Highway 25 east of Coromandel

- SH25 has one lane open and is operating under a stop/go operation following the slip suffered on 20 July 2022. It is expected that both lanes will be restored by the end of today.

State Highway 6 west of Murchison

- A rockfall closed State Highway 6 at Dellows Bluff, west of Murchison on 20 July 2022. Barriers are being put in place to protect traffic while the rockface is stabilised.
- It is expected that a single lane will be opened at 8am 23 July 2022.

Weekend updates for the Minister

- Media updates and traffic bulletins will be sent to Jemma Dacy and Travis Mills proactively by Megan Heffield.
- If a significant incident were to occur, NERT will convene over the weekend. If this occurs, an update will be provided to you.