

MIN-3945 Further Update on Current Weather Event

24 August 2022

Provide a further update on the current weather event across New Zealand.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's response:

There have been minimal changes within the last 24 hours. Our team continue to do a great job at responding to the event in challenging circumstances, noting that the situation is now stabilising. However, the land is still drying out; more in-depth assessments will reveal the full extent of the damage. Waka Kotahi is monitoring the predicted rain forecast for later in the week.

Emergency Response across New Zealand

- The following regions continue to operate under Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM):
 - Marlborough (extended until 28 August 2022 at least)
 - Nelson (extended for another 7 days).
- The Regional Emergency Response Team (RERT) has seen a transition of people and are looking to scale back/conclude today, 24 August 2022.
- The cost estimates have still yet to be established, but it will be significant.

Update across regions

Nelson

West (Golden Bay)

- SH 60 – Richmond to Collingwood – the network is open but there are a lot of impacts. The main risk is Birds Hill (between Takaka and Collingwood) where pressure to get dairy milk out remains. The network is only open to light traffic due to a significant underslip and ground conditions. There will be intermittent closures over the next day or so, as the team looks for heavy vehicle access options. (Once the water is drained from the uphill pond, a further assessment of the large underslip can be made and stability for trucks determined).

South

- SH 6 – The network is open (Brightwater to Murchison) and is currently the only secure route in and out of the Nelson region.

East

- SH 6 Nelson to Blenheim has sustained significant damage at various locations:
 - Eastern end (Blenheim side) – the network is open from Renwick to Havelock for emergency vehicles and residents only.
 - Western end (Nelson side) – the network is open from Nelson to Hira under restriction to allow residential access only.
 - Good progress has been made with maintenance crews having made it through the route. Clean up continues with the focus to restore at least one lane. A further update

will be provided later this week. The main area of focus is now on Rai Valley and through to the Whangamoas and on to Hira.

Central Business District

- SH 6 Rocks Road remains closed. Waka Kotahi is awaiting Emergency Operations Centre and geotechnical approval to open the north bound lane. This was deferred today due to slip movement. This closure is having significant impacts on traffic flow in Nelson and linkage south, due to pressure on Waimea Road.
- SH 6 Atawhai (northern fringe of urban area) is open to two lanes to allow residential access through to Hira.

Marlborough

- SH1 Picton and Blenheim are open.
- SH 63 – the current focus is on river diversion (Branch River Bridge where the approach was washed away). Once the river is diverted and stabilised, crews can re-establish the approach and continue with repairs along this route. *Note:* There is a key fibre that has been damaged along this route, so it is important to have this fixed as well as undertake road repairs.
- Outer Sounds local roads have sustained significant damage. The estimated scale is similar, or worse than July 2021. All of the roads are closed, but Waka Kotahi is hoping to open Queen Charlotte Drive later this week. There will be communities isolated with no road access for some time. Okiwi Bay is one notable community cut off by road. The CDEM is arranging air or water access.
- A copy of the media release published on the Waka Kotahi website on 23 August 2022 is provided in *Appendix A*.

Wellington

- SH 59 north of Pukerua Bay is closed and is likely to remain closed for several weeks. There is a moderate knoll above the roadside which has a significant crack and there are concerns over more land slippage. Waka Kotahi is currently assessing volumes of material and benching options. Once the volume is determined, the timeline will be confirmed (Transmission Gully is providing an alternative secure north/south access route).

Northland

- SH 1 through the Mangamuka's remains closed due to the extent of damage. This is likely to remain closed for many weeks due to soft ground conditions and ongoing land movement.

MIN-3945-1 Further Update on Current Weather Event

25 August 2022

Provide a further update on the current weather event across New Zealand.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's response:

On 24 August 2022, the Regional Emergency Response Team (RERT) was stood down due to the situation stabilising. However, this does not diminish the focus on the ground to reinstate connectivity for highways still closed.

Both the Marlborough and Nelson regions remain under Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM).

Update across Marlborough and Nelson regions

- **SH 6 Rocks Road – partial reopening:**

The road is currently open during daylight hours, under restrictions. It is open daily from 8am to 7pm one-way for northbound traffic, only from Tahunanui towards the city. A 30km/h speed limit is in place to minimise the impact on homes at risk from a nearby slip (Tahnunui slump). There has been concern expressed by residents around the risk of truck vibrations and potential to exacerbate property damage, hence the 30km/h speed limit

Average travel times from Richmond to Nelson improved this morning, and Waka Kotahi will continue to monitor peak traffic flows over the coming days to understand the impact with reopening Rocks Road. Due to the ongoing risk of slips in the Rocks Road area, the route is closed to pedestrians and cyclists for safety reasons.

- **SH 6 Atawhai Drive (northern outskirts of Nelson urban area):**

This is now restored to two lanes. Work continues to clear slip sites, with traffic management in place. With wet weather forecast, conditions could change at short notice.

- **SH 63 Renwick to Saint Arnaud:**

The northern closure point has now moved to Leatham Road, just north of the Branch River, where the bridge approach was washed out, with efforts to divert the river away from the abutment. The highway remains closed between Leatham Road and Saint Arnaud due to the damage. Contractors are working hard to restore this link.

- **SH 6 Renwick to Hira:**

Good progress is being made on reopening Renwick to Havelock to all road users. Final safety checks need to be done, and Civil Defence approval given before full access can resume.

- **SH 60 Tākaka to Onekaka update:**

Efforts to reopen this road to heavy vehicles are going well. However, daytime road closures remain in place. This week, the road will be open to light vehicles only during the following hours:

- 8am - 9am
- 12pm - 1pm
- 3pm - 4pm
- 6pm - 7am

Waka Kotahi will update the status of the road as soon as access for heavy vehicles is restored.

Work is underway to open road to heavy commercial vehicles from tonight or tomorrow (single lane). A limited number of trucks are available to move material to site to affect repairs.

- **Other local council roads**

Significant damage is still be assessed, with a focus on the key routes closer to urban areas such as Queen Charlotte Drive. Currently Marlborough District Council is considering what the plan is going forward for short term access to cut off communities along with longer term transport options. Photos are provided in *Appendix A*.

Released under the Official Information Act 1982









MIN-3945-2 Further Update on Current Weather Event

29 August 2022

Provide a further update on the current weather event across New Zealand.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's response

Please find below the latest update on the severe weather event across New Zealand, as at 26 August 2022:

Overview

- The Marlborough Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) was stood down at 4.30pm on 26 August 2022. The Nelson/Tasman EOC is likely to continue through into middle of the week beginning 29 August 2022.
- Associate Minister of Transport, Kieran McNulty, visited Marlborough on 25 August 2022, to be briefed by EOC and visit a Rai Valley farmer.
- The contractor is making good progress to assess damage. For the Marlborough region, 1300 repair sites have been logged to date. There has been great initiative to use electric bikes to gain access to inspect difficult sections of Kenepuru Drive.
- The latest images are provided in **Appendix A**.

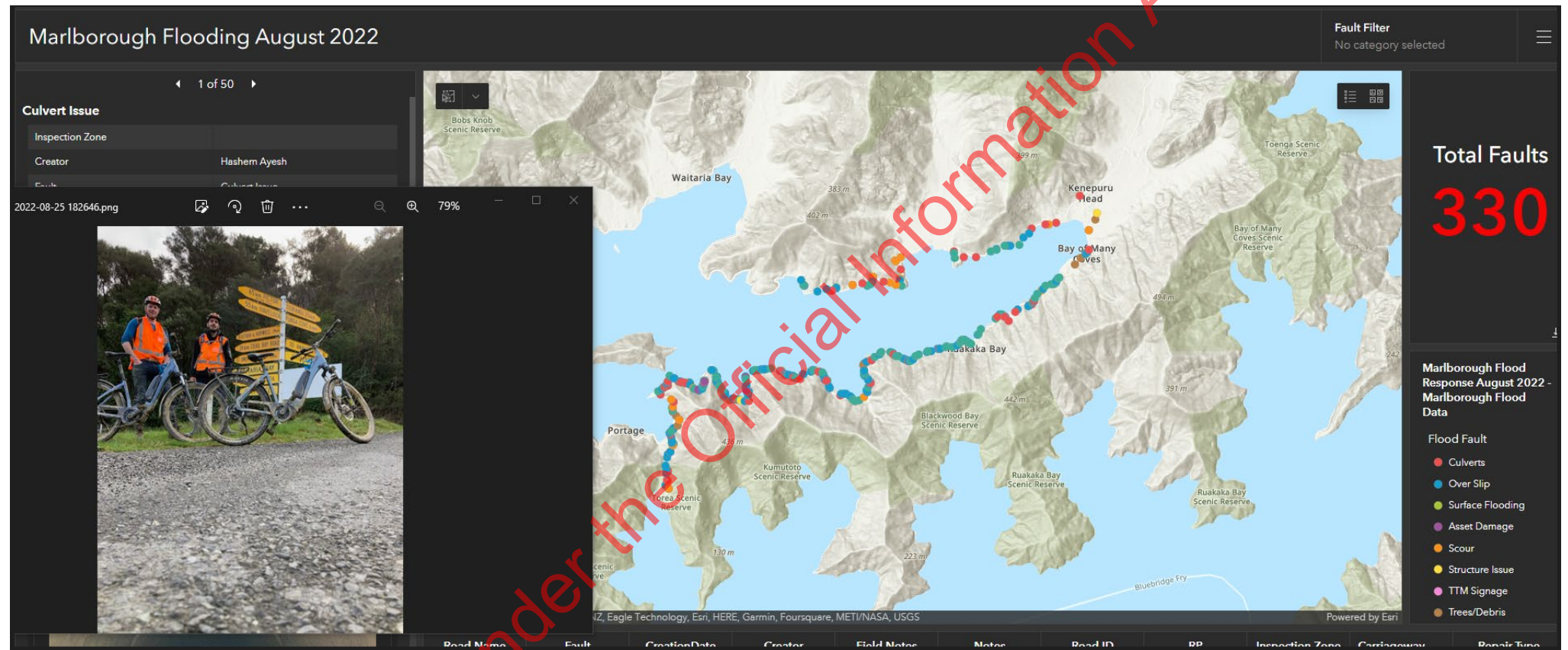
Marlborough

- SH 63 (Renwick to St Arnaud) - Remains closed at the Branch River Bridge approach. River diversion work has been successful, and work is now focused on installing rock to build up the approach. Road surface repairs further south at the Wash are yet to be undertaken.
- SH 6 (Blenheim to Havelock) - Open to traffic to provide access to Havelock, with local access to Rai Valley.
- Local Marlborough District Council roads - While access is being re-established to communities around Linkwater, work continues along Queen Charlotte Drive; however, the middle section remains challenging. The outer sounds roads have had majority of the impact with numerous slips, especially Kenepuru Drive the French Pass roads.

Nelson/Tasman

- SH 6 (Nelson to Havelock) – The road is open from Nelson to Hira. Good progress is being made to clear slips in Rai Valley and the Whangamoa's, with two notable underslips along with removal of loose slip material. Waka Kothi is looking to reopen this section of highway around the middle of the week beginning 29 August 2022, weather permitting.
- SH 6 Rocks Road – The road fully opened to two lanes around 4pm 26 August 2022. Some restrictions still remain.
- SH 60 (Birds Hill, Takaka to Collingwood) – Open to vehicles and trucks up to 26 tonnes (8 wheelers), with intermittent closures during the day.

MIN-3945-2 – Severe Weather Event Update – Appendix A



Marlborough Flooding Damage



SH 6 – Whangamoa underslip



French Pass Road southern end



French Pass



Branch River upstream works



Branch River Bridge approach



SH 59 Pukerua Bay

Northland

- SH 1 through the Mangamuka's remains closed with land significantly impacted by wet weather and saturated soil, as well as ongoing movement. There are an estimated 19 slips (four new ones).
- SH 10 is the alternative route to the Far North but is vulnerable due to the impact of increased traffic and bridge limitations.

Wellington

- SH 59 north of Pukerua Bay remains closed. However, preparation has commenced for removal of the unstable hillock, between the railway and highway. The volume of material to be removed is significant and dump site locations/cost challenging.

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

MIN-3945-3 Further Update on Current Weather Event

31 August 2022

Provide a further update on the current weather event across New Zealand.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's response

Please find below the latest update on the severe weather event across New Zealand, as at 29 August 2022:

Overview

- The Nelson/Tasman Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) continues and will be reviewed in middle of this week.
- Prime Minister Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, the Minister of Transport & Associate Minister of Transport, Kieran McAnulty, are due to visit Marlborough on 1 September 2022.
- The contractor continues making good progress to assess damage. For the Marlborough region, 1800 repair sites have been logged to date.

Marlborough

- SH 63 (Renwick to St Arnaud) – The road remains closed at the Branch River Bridge approach. Focus is now on restoring the approach; this may take some time as the team look to reinstate the approach to a resilient condition. Road surface repairs further south at the Wash are yet to be undertaken.
- SH 6 (Blenheim to Nelson) – Waka Kotahi is planning to open this route across Rai and Whangamoa Saddles to all traffic on 31 August 2022. There is still significant recovery work ahead to reinstate full width of the road, so journey may take longer than normal due to the number of temporary traffic sites. The following is an excerpt from a media release:

Over the last five days, we've had over 70 people working in the section each day. The crews have removed around 12 thousand tonnes of spoil and debris. Another 12,000 tonnes of hard fill have been brought in, and 300 tonnes of asphalt has been laid. Six 31 tonne dump trucks and 10 diggers have been flat out getting the road in a safe condition for vehicles to use it. I also want to thank the local forestry industry for their efforts in helping us with clearing the road.

- Local Marlborough District Council roads – Work continues with assessing the damage to the local council roads across the Marlborough Sounds where many have numerous slips, especially Kenepuru Road and the French Pass Road.

Nelson/Tasman

- SH 60 (Birds Hill, Takaka to Collingwood) – Open to vehicles, including truck and trailer units, with a 30km/h temporary speed limit in place. Work continues, with ongoing intermittent closures during the day.

Northland

- SH 1 through the Mangamuka's remains closed with land significantly impacted by wet weather and saturated soil, as well as ongoing movement. The conditions in the Mangamuka Gorge are still highly unstable and the earth is still moving:
 - There are currently 19 slips in total with six of those being major slips which are closing the road.
 - There are also three overslips which Waka Kotahi contractors are working to clear.
 - A historic slip (from the Mangamuka Gorge closure in 2020) has also reactivated.
- SH 10 is the alternative route to the Far North but is vulnerable due to the impact of increased traffic and bridge limitations:
 - Waka Kotahi is working on accelerated plans to fix the slip near Totara North Road on SH10 Waitaruke so the road can be opened to two lanes. Geotech investigations and design plans are being worked on now so construction on the fix can begin as soon as possible.
 - An additional slip has developed approximately 2km north of Waitaruke, this one still currently has both lanes open.

Wellington

- SH 59 north of Pukerua Bay remains closed. There has been good progress with removing a significant amount of material from the slope. The road is likely to remain closed for some time, until earth removed and slope benched.