

MINISTERIAL BRIEFING NOTE

Subject	State Highway 35 Resilience Programme
Date	30 August 2022
Briefing number	BRI-2548

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)	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- ☐ Withdrawn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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30 August 2022

Minister of Transport

STATE HIGHWAY 35 RESILIENCE PROGRAMME

Purpose

1. This briefing provides you with an update on the State Highway 35 (SH35) Resilience Programme and other resilience works in the Tairāwhiti East Coast region.
2. On 6 May 2022, you received an update on the national resilience programme and emergency works activity classes, with SH35 used as an example (BRI-2445 refers). This briefing provides further detail on the SH35 Programme and next steps.

Completed and ongoing resilience work on SH35

3. The Connecting Tairāwhiti Programme Business Case (PBC) was developed by Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency in 2018, in consultation with local government and key network users. The purpose of the PBC was to improve both intraregional connections within Tairāwhiti as well as interregional connections with the rest of New Zealand. The PBC included resilience projects, along with passing opportunity, realignment, bridge strengthening and inter-regional connections projects.
4. One of the recommendations from the PBC was to complete a single stage business case (SSBC) to respond to resilience issues identified on SH35 between Pōtaka and Wainui.
5. Funding of \$13.5m was secured through the Provincial Growth Fund (PGF) for resilience improvements on SH35 within the Gisborne district. This funding was a fixed amount.
6. The SH35 and Connecting Routes: Resilience SSBC was completed in 2020. This SSBC assessed 200 sites of concern that were prioritised using multi criteria analysis. The SSBC identified 28 sites to be delivered as part of the PGF funding allocation.
7. The total number of sites that can be afforded under the PGF allocation has reduced to 14 following detailed geotechnical investigations, solution development and cost escalation. Works on five of the 14 sites have been completed to date.
8. The following table details the status of the resilience projects included in the SSBC.

2021/2022 construction season – construction completion dates	
Turihaua Point, Overslip 1	September 2021
Busbys Summit	September 2021
Makorori Carpark, 1	September 2021
Makorori Carpark, 2	September 2021
Makorori Point Bank	September 2021

2022/2023 Construction Season – construction start dates	
Pakarae, 1a Native Regeneration	August 2022
Pouawa Pullover Scour	August 2022
Turihaua Point Scour	August 2022
Kopuaroa Hill Subsidence	September 2022
Busbys Realignment Batters	November 2022
2023/2024 construction season – construction start dates	
Te Puia Subsidence A	TBC
Gudgeons Hill South Subsidence	TBC
Kopuaroa Hill Ascent 1	TBC
Kopuaroa Hill Ascent 1	TBC

9. The Kopuaroa Hill Subsidence, Busby's Hill Realignment and Turihaua Point Scour sites that make up over half the \$13.5m spend were severely affected by the March 2022 rain event.

Review of the Connecting Tairāwhiti Programme Business Case

10. Following significant weather events in the Tairāwhiti region in March and July 2022, Waka Kotahi has assessed that the SSBC should be reviewed to:
- reassess sites that had previously been rated as a low priority but have been subject to failures during the weather events,
 - account for any sites that are now of concern that weren't previously, and
 - extend the scope to cover the full length of SH35 from Opotiki to Gisborne.
11. Waka Kotahi is currently in the process of scoping the review as well as identifying resources and funding.
12. It is too early to tell exactly what sites may be included in the review, s 9(2)(g)(i). Sites already included in the SSBC will remain.
13. The resilience programme and emergency works projects are working together to ensure the network is restored to be stronger when future events occur.
- An example of this is on Kopuaroa Hill where the subsidence site deteriorated and became an emergency works site before work could start on the resilience project. Due to the urgency, the resilience work to secure a longer-term solution has been fast tracked, while the emergency works are focused on keeping the road open. The local Waka Kotahi Maintenance and Operations and Infrastructure Delivery teams are working closely together to manage the site.

Public consultation for resilience works

14. Extensive public consultation was carried out for the Tairāwhiti Rooding Package projects (the subject of the PGF funding allocation) at both the PBC and SSBC stages.
15. The Connecting Tairāwhiti 'Have your say' consultation drive was undertaken in late 2020 as part of the SSBCs for the SH35 and connecting routes, SH2 and SH35 passing opportunities, SH35 Makokomuka realignment, and SH35 speed review projects. This included meetings with key stakeholders including the Gisborne District Council, Iwi Chairs' forum, Emergency Services, key freight operators, and industry groups. Evening drop-in sessions were held for the public at a number of locations in the region.
16. The feedback gathered from this consultation helped shape the projects. The ideas and feedback were broad and insightful. They were used in the multicriteria analysis of the sites within the projects to help prioritise where the greatest need for investment in the network was.
17. During this consultation drive we created the Connecting Tairāwhiti e-newsletter to keep people informed of the work underway and what was coming up. This was going out quarterly, however has been going out more frequently since the March 2022 rain event. The newsletter includes updates on the recovery from the weather event.
18. Further consultation for the review of the programme is yet to be determined but is likely to take place to assist with prioritising the new projects.

It is recommended that you:

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