

Bay of Plenty Maintenance Programme

More than \$45 million has been spent to renew 215 lane km of state highway in the Bay of Plenty during the 2022/23 summer programme, to ensure the safety and accessibility of the state highway network.

This programme included more than 27 lane kilometres of resealing on State Highway 2 between Waihi and Ōmokoroa.

Other areas where we have completed significant volumes of work include Tauranga (5.4 lane kilometres of asphalt resurfacing), the Rotorua Lakes District (over 28 lane kilometres of renewals) and SH35 east of Ōpōtiki (49 lane kilometres of chipseal).

Nationally Waka Kotahi undertook its largest-ever maintenance programme, with an aim to rebuild or reseal 2500 lane kilometres across the motu. While this programme was heavily disrupted by weather in regions such as the Bay of Plenty, we have still been able to complete the vast majority of this work.

USE OUR JOURNEY PLANNER



Our Journey Planner has been given a makeover, and now has a modern look and feel – as before it allows you to plan your trip with travel time information, traffic cameras, and updates on delays, roadworks and road closures.

Use our Journey Planner at journeys.nzta.govt.nz

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why is resealing work undertaken during summer?

Warmer spring and summer months are the best time for resurfacing as daylight hours are longer and the warm temperatures and dry air help the new seal stick to the road surface. Warm weather helps ensure the new seal becomes strong and long lasting.

Bitumen and emulsion are liquids when they are hot and hard when cold. They can crack in cold weather, return to a liquid state in high temperatures, and wet road conditions during sealing will affect the bond between the bitumen and the road, leading to chip seal failures.

During the peak summer months it is a balance to programme as much work as we can before schools return, while the roads are quieter, whilst also minimising the effect on people's holiday travel.

What can we expect to see over winter?

During the colder months the focus is on always keeping roads accessible for road users. This includes a mix of regular maintenance activities such as mowing, litter collection and signage cleaning and replacing, as well as reactive maintenance to road condition issues.

Why are there so many potholes on the roads?

Potholes can occur for a number of reasons, however water is the primary cause. With our older pavements, if there's a crack in the road surface, or a displaced stone, it will allow water to sit in the road surface. As vehicles drive over the ponding water, tyres create hydraulic pressure, forcing the water down into the pavement. Over time, as vehicles continue to run over the pothole, it'll grow in size as weakened areas break off. Sections of road that are due for renewal are often the worst affected areas as the pavement and surface are weaker and are starting to fail.

Potholes will often appear during heavy rain events, and we're seeing these events occur more frequently now due to climate change.

What are you doing next summer?

While we are still planning the exact programme for the 2023/24 summer, we anticipate that the Bay of Plenty region will see a similar level of road renewals. Due to the high volume of resealing completed on SH2 north of Ōmokoroa in recent years the focus is likely to be on other sections of the network in and around Tauranga.