



# Te Ara Tūtohu Waitara to Bell Block Safety Improvements



## Detour through Waitara to remain in place while stage 2 stormwater works completed

We've almost completed installation of the 760m stormwater pipe along State Highway 3 (SH3) from Manukorihi soccer fields to Princess Street. A New Plymouth District Council watermain pipe has also been installed in the same trench to avoid disrupting traffic in the future to carry out this work. Despite resourcing challenges resulting from Covid-19 and some severe weather events in the region, crews have worked hard to complete this work on schedule.

We've been working with our project partners Manukorihi, Ngāti Rahiri, Otaraua, Pukerangiora, Puketapu Hapū and Te Kotahitanga o Te Atiawa and New Plymouth District Council on the design and location for the stormwater outfall. Stormwater will be discharged into the Waitara Awa (River) near the border of the Manukorihi soccer fields adjacent to SH3.

A special structure will be built at the discharge location to ensure the stormwater enters the awa slowly to avoid negatively impacting the waterway.

To minimise future disruptions to traffic, we plan to start installing the additional stormwater pipe to the discharge location immediately after we've completed the first part of the job.

As our crews will be working on the highway to deliver these additional works, the current traffic management will need to remain in place for another three months. This is to ensure the safety of motorists and our crews.

Northbound light vehicles including cars, vans and utes will continue to detour through Waitara, adding 6–10 minutes to the journey north. All vehicles travelling south will use the state highway under stop/go traffic management, adding about six minutes to journeys.

Northbound freight will continue to use the state highway under stop/go traffic management to avoid safety issues associated with large vehicles travelling through Waitara.

Safety measures on the detour route will remain in place to help keep the community safe and Waka Kotahi will continue to monitor how the detour is operating and make improvements to traffic management if necessary.

We acknowledge that this is disruptive for some residents and road users, and we appreciate everyone's continued cooperation and patience while we complete this important work.

## Why did you initially tell us that the detour would only be in place until June?

When we commenced construction of the stormwater pipe, we didn't yet have a design and location for the outfall so we didn't know what traffic management would be required to construct it. In order for the project to remain on schedule and enable construction of the Princess Street roundabout to start this year, we couldn't delay starting work until we had the design for the outfall.

## Will I still be able to access Mamaku Road from the highway coming from the north?

Yes, however there will still be restrictions on Bertrand Road which is open for residents only.

## What traffic management will be in place when the roundabout is being constructed? Can we expect more disruption to our journeys?

We don't yet know what traffic management plan will be needed when the roundabout is being constructed. This will be developed and shared with key stakeholders and the public for feedback once a contractor has been appointed to undertake the work. It is likely that the traffic management will need to be adjusted through the construction period of the roundabout. Detours through Waitara will be required from time to time but will be limited in number and duration.

## Trial embankment - corner of Airport Drive and SH3

Work to build a trial embankment on New Plymouth District Council-owned property on the corner of Airport Drive and SH3 will get underway soon. This work was originally scheduled to start at the end of May but has been delayed due to resourcing constraints.

This work involves placing 3000 cubic metres of rock material onto the site. The project team will test how the ground responds to the weight over a number of months to inform the design of the roundabout planned for the intersection of De Havilland Drive and SH3.

The trial embankment will take approximately four weeks to construct with crews onsite between 7am and 6pm most week days. There will be signage and traffic cones in place near the Airport Drive accessway to ensure the safety of all road users.

## Princess Street roundabout and underpass

Construction of the Princess Street roundabout and underpass is on track to start this summer. Design work for the roundabout at Waitara Road is also well underway putting us in a good position to start construction of this roundabout in late 2023, if consenting and property negotiations allow.

We are planning on holding in-person events to discuss the project with the community in the coming months.

To get information about the project and upcoming community engagement events direct to your inbox, sign up for email updates at [www.nzta.govt.nz/w2bb](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/w2bb)

## Get in touch

Comments, questions about the detour through Waitara or the wider project? Email: [w2bb@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:w2bb@nzta.govt.nz)

