

# 3 Waitara to Bell Block Safety Improvements – Stormwater works & detour through Waitara

## Kia whakahaumaru tēnei rori



Major infrastructure works to make State Highway 3 (SH3) safer between Waitara and Bell Block kick off early in the new year.

Around the second week of January, Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency will start installing stormwater infrastructure on SH3 ahead of construction of the new roundabout and underpass at the SH3/Princess Street intersection later in 2022.

These initial works involve laying a 760m long pipe under the ground along SH3 from Manukorihi soccer fields to Princess Street.

Waka Kotahi and New Plymouth District Council are working together to deliver the new stormwater pipe. It will address flooding issues around Princess and Rahiri Streets in addition to carrying stormwater runoff from the new roundabout when it's built.

### Northbound detour through Waitara

Installing the stormwater pipe is a big job, expected to take about five months to complete. Crews will work between 6:30am and 6:30pm, Monday to Friday, and some Saturdays when required.

For the safety of those using the road and our workers, SH3 will be reduced down to one lane at the site while work is underway. The stop/go will be managed by temporary traffic lights.

While SH3 is down to one lane, light vehicles such as cars, motorcycles and vans heading north will be detoured off the state highway through Waitara, adding about 12 minutes to journeys.


All southbound traffic will continue to use SH3 with delays of approximately six minutes.

Northbound freight will continue to use SH3 to avoid potential safety issues associated with large vehicles travelling through Waitara.

Outside of work hours the detour will be removed, and all traffic will use the state highway under traffic lights. People are asked to take extra care when travelling through the site and follow the temporary speed limit.

## Detour route for northbound light vehicles Heavy vehicles use SH3

**KEY**

-  Detour for northbound light vehicles
-  Work site



### Keeping the Waitara community safe

The detour will mean a lot more traffic in Waitara, particularly during peak times. To ensure the safety of Waitara residents and people using the road, Waka Kotahi has worked with New Plymouth District Council to design a number of safety measures that will be implemented while the detour is in place.

These include temporary speed limits throughout the route, speed restrictions outside schools during pick up and drop off times, temporary pedestrian crossings and road markers and bollards to separate and slow traffic.

The detour route will be closely monitored by traffic management crews and will be adjusted if necessary.

### What you can do to help keep everyone safe

- Stick to the temporary speed limits and keep an eye out for people walking and cycling especially at the start and end of school.
- When out walking and cycling along the detour route, be aware of the increase in traffic and take extra care.
- Let your tamariki know there will be more cars on the road and encourage them to be extra careful and always cross at the dedicated crossing points.
- Report any issues or instances of poor driver behaviour to Waka Kotahi or NZ Police.

Waka Kotahi will be regularly checking in with Waitara schools to get feedback on how the safety measures are working so we can make changes if needed.

### Access for residents

All properties on SH3 will be accessible as usual during these works.

For the first few months Princess Street intersection will be open as usual. As the project progresses and work is being undertaken closer to the intersection, stop/go traffic management will be in place, but delays will be minimal.

### Comments, questions, and complaints

During the works, the detour route will be managed by Waka Kotahi. To provide feedback, ask questions or report any issues about the detour route or the state highway please get in touch using the contact details below.

### Get in touch

Email: [w2bb@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:w2bb@nzta.govt.nz)

Phone: **0800 4 HIGHWAYS**  
**(0800 44 44 49)**

Waka Kotahi thanks you for your patience while these important works are completed.

For further information about the SH3 Waitara to Bell Block safety improvement project and to sign up to email updates visit [www.nzta.govt.nz/w2bb](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/w2bb)