

TREC Hawke's Bay recovery update



Transport
Rebuild
East Coast



KiwiRail

December 2024

Tēnā koe,

The Transport Rebuild East Coast Alliance (TREC) is making significant progress on our Cyclone Gabrielle recovery programme, with much work planned across Hawke's Bay this summer. We want to update you on our current status and future plans for State Highway 50 (SH50). Thanks for your understanding as we work to recover and improve the safety of state highways across the region.

Recovery work nearly complete on SH50

There is one more recovery project to be completed on SH50 which will begin in early 2025.

The Glencoe Gorge underslip is around 15m high and 10m wide and has undermined the existing guardrail and farm fence located along SH50.

When there is an underslip on the downhill side of the road it poses a risk to the road above if it isn't addressed. Because underslips are usually out of sight below the road, it can be difficult to see the damage and what's happening to fix it when you're travelling past.

To start the repair, we'll first dig a track down to the bottom of the underslip so the team can access the site and remove the old slip material. There will also be a temporary stream diversion to protect aquatic life.

An EcoReef wall, made from hexagonal blocks filled with material will be constructed to protect against future erosion. The edge of the road surface is then reinstated and new guardrail is installed.

While we complete the job this site will operate as a single lane with traffic lights. This job, and our work on SH50 is expected to be complete by autumn 2025.



Glencoe Gorge underslip



Glencoe Gorge underslip from the road

Recovery work on SH50



Glencoe Gorge Culvert

Recovery works are complete at Glencoe Gorge, five minutes south of Maraekākaho, where heavy rain caused significant damage to the Glencoe Culvert and retaining wall. The damage caused water to enter the culvert's foundation, increasing the potential for erosion.

The damaged culvert was repaired and strengthened by raising it to the road level. This will improve drainage and better manage water surface runoff.

The existing retaining wall had buckled over due to the tension from heavy rain causing cracks. Crews excavated the roadside to remove and replace the existing walls and then rebuilt the road above.



Mangamate Stream Bridge

During Cyclone Gabrielle, floodwaters scoured (eroded) away part of the bank underneath Mangamate Stream Bridge, compromising the bridge abutment which connects it to the land. The road shoulder slumped away, and the road was down to a single lane.

The bridge abutment was reasonably challenging to repair during the winter with water levels going up and down. Repairs were focused around increasing ground stability to provide resilience for the road whenever the ground becomes waterlogged.

Specialist crews installed 26 ground anchors to stabilise the bank and support the bridge and road above. The team drilled holes up to 12m deep, placing the steel anchors into the holes and grouting them into place.

Ground anchors are long steel rods which give the ground and road extra stability. They are a crucial part of the recovery work.

The road reopened to two lanes in spring 2024, when construction then moved to Ben Lomond Bridge.



Ben Lomond Bridge

Repairs and strengthening work on the Ben Lomond Bridge between Maraekākaho and Tikokino are complete.

The bridge, built in 1973 across the Maraekākaho river, had intense flows during Cyclone Gabrielle. These flows and additional storms wore away the riverbanks opposite the northern pier, potentially weakening the ends of the bridge where it rejoins the hillside and the structural integrity of the bridge.

To prevent erosion we installed geofabric along with 400 tonnes of riprap (large rocks) on top of this.

These large riprap rocks placed along the edge act as a shield. They absorb the force of the water, protecting the soil and keeping the riverbank intact, resulting in protection to the bridge's foundations.



SH50 summer renewals programme

To keep our roads safe and accessible, NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) undertakes an annual programme of resurfacing and rebuilding across the state highway network every year. Spring to autumn is the optimal time to complete these network improvements; the warmer weather creates the ideal conditions.

Four sections of road rebuilding have been identified for SH50

These are:

- **Mangamauku stream**, Tikokino village between Holden Street and Smedley Road. This site is just over 1km long. This site is currently in construction and the crew is working hard to complete it before the Christmas period.
- **Balfour Road**, near Ashley Clinton – starting early December. This site is just over 200m long and is expected to be complete before the Christmas break.
- **Watson South**, between Tukituki River and the SH50/2 intersection, will begin in early January, and will be completed in March. The site is approximately 750m long.
- **Mangatewai South**, near Ashley Clinton Road, is programmed for January and will take approximately four weeks to complete. The site is 300m long.

Over the coming months, you'll see a lot of road works taking place on state highways throughout the region to ensure our roads are safe and reliable. With the road rebuild sites above you may experience delays of up to 15 minutes. The rebuilds typically take about six to eight weeks to complete. Rebuilding the pavement creates a new road surface, which increases the longevity of the road.

There will also be a number of reseals that are relatively quick and will have traffic management in place for approximately one week per site. Thank you for your patience while we complete this essential work to help keep you, other road users and crew safe.

We will share further information when the timing for these sites is confirmed.

In the meantime please call 0800 80 TREC (0800 80 8732) if you have any questions about work on Hawke's Bay state highways or email us on info@trec.nz. If you spot an issue at a work site after hours, call 0800 4 HIGHWAYS (0800 444 449).

Whakapā mai ▪ Get in touch

Email us info@trec.nz

Website nzta.govt.nz/trec

LinkedIn [linkedin.com/company/east-coast-trec](https://www.linkedin.com/company/east-coast-trec)

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