

TREC Hawke's Bay recovery update



Transport
Rebuild
East Coast



KiwiRail

October 2024

Tēnā koe,

The Transport Rebuild East Coast Alliance (TREC) is making progress with lots of work to come this summer. We want to update you on where we're at and what is planned. Thanks for your understanding as we work to recover and improve the safety of State Highway 5 (SH5).

What's been happening on SH5

This year we have completed work on four SH5 recovery sites; at Pokopoko Gully, Stoney Creek, Captain's Culvert and Dillon's Hill sheetpile wall. We have one site - North of Hill Road Culvert - in construction, and Dillon's Hill Culvert is due to start in mid-October.

By the middle of spring we will also have completed the construction of SH5 safety improvement projects.

The final safety improvement site north of Te Pōhue where there is a closed passing lane will be complete in October. The passing lane will then be reopened.

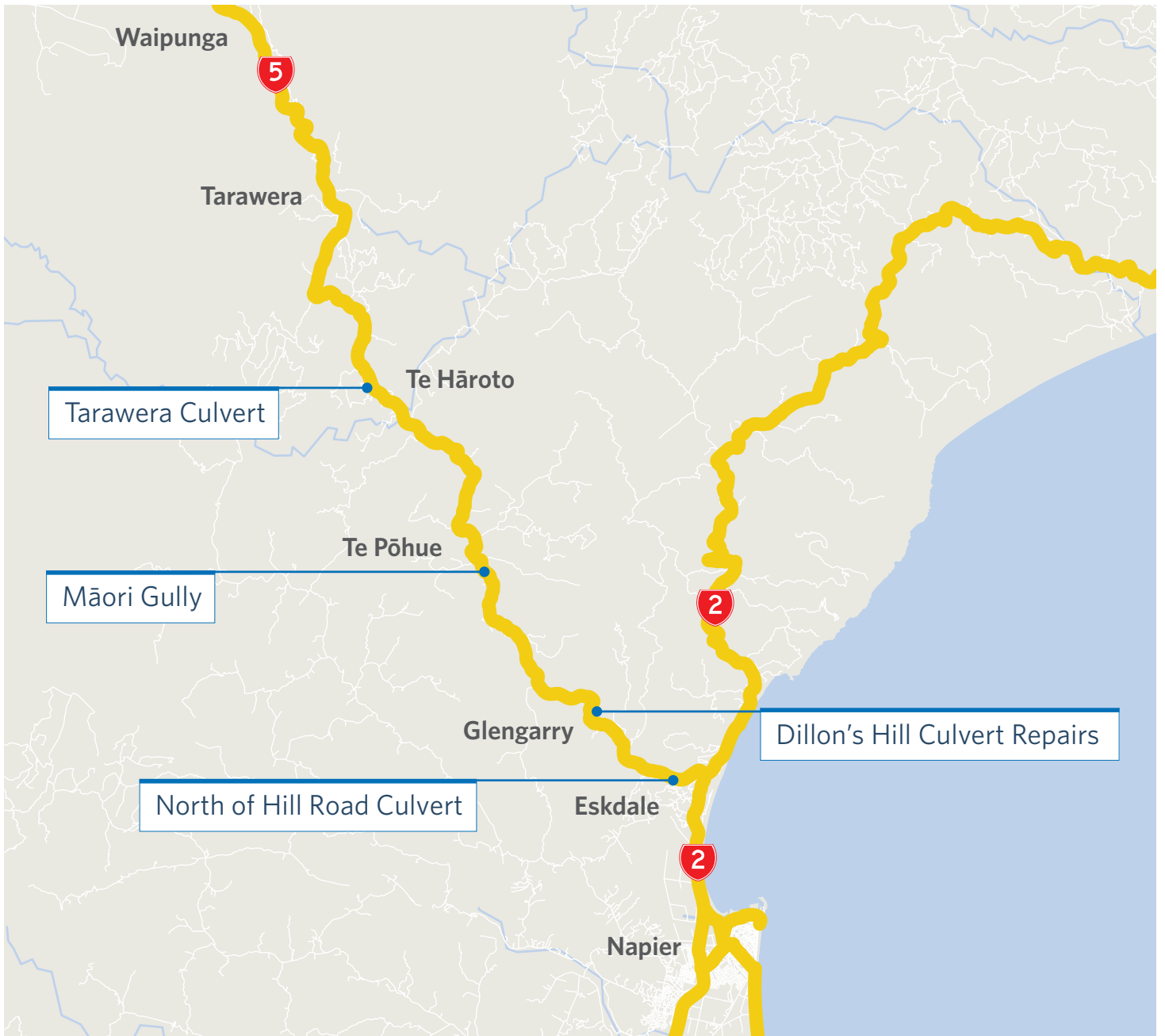
The recovery programme for the SH5 corridor is planned to be finished in early 2025.



Captain's Culvert SH5, August 2024

What recovery work is still to be completed on SH5?

Through October 2024 repairs will begin at Dillon's Hill Culvert and will continue at North of Hill Road Culvert in Esk Valley. Culverts help to guide water away from the road and to a waterway, reducing the risk of flooding and damage to the road in bad weather. Early in the new year we will begin work at Tarawera Culvert and Māori Gully.



North of Hill Road Culvert

This large box style culvert was severely damaged in Cyclone Gabrielle. This includes damage to the bracing, joints, road surface, handrail and guardrails above the culvert.

The stream will be temporarily diverted so crews can access the riverbed while protecting aquatic life. This will take approximately one month to repair at the end of spring 2024.



Dillon's Hill Culvert

We will begin repairing this culvert (about 10 minutes north of Eskdale) in mid-October. This is expected to be completed in October 2024.

The repairs will stabilise the bank slopes to protect the twin culvert bank. This will include:

- Removing the damaged retaining walls and clearing vegetation to access the site.
- Trimming vegetation in some areas of the bank slopes to help with future water flow.

New retaining walls above the culvert will restore this section of the state highway, providing crucial support and protection for the road surface.

Tarawera Culvert

The original Tarawera Culvert was significantly damaged in the cyclone spilling debris across the road and scouring alongside the road shoulder.

An emergency culvert was installed just north of the original culvert with shotcrete (sprayed liquid concrete) applied to the inlet banks to help prevent erosion.

However, the 20 metre height difference from the culvert outlet down to the riverbed has resulted in extensive scour and erosion. This will be repaired over four months to more effectively manage the water flow in and around the culvert to help protect the longevity of the road surface.

Māori Gully Underslips

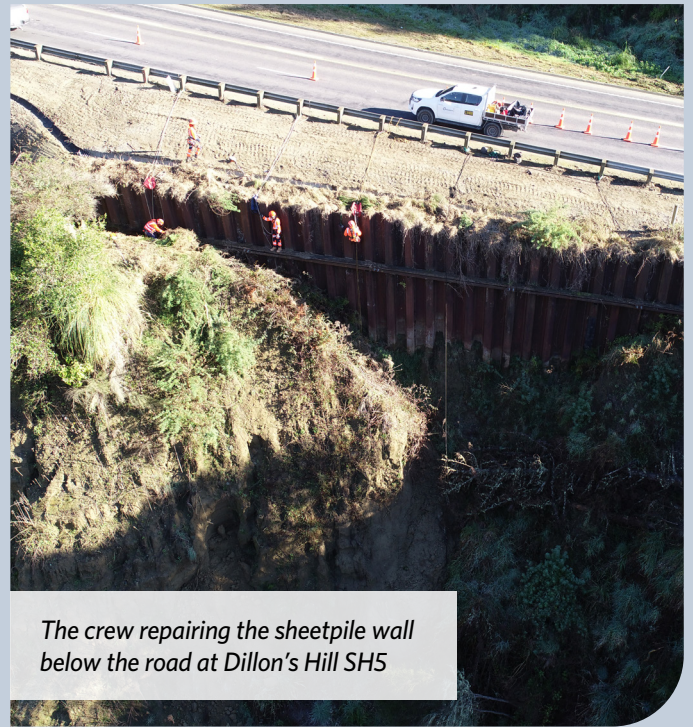
This site is 40km northwest of Napier and is where the Pokopoko stream runs through the steeply cut gully.

This part of SH5 has an interesting history, with the road originally located on the valley floor.

Many years ago stagecoaches used to pass through the stream; at times this would have been perilous. In 1938 a mound was constructed, and the road built above the valley floor.

A culvert was tunnelled through the rock beside the mound, for the stream to cross under the road.

During the cyclone this site had three underslips. Repairs are scheduled to start in January 2025.



The crew repairing the sheetpile wall below the road at Dillon's Hill SH5

Why was the Dillon's Hill northbound passing lane closed?

Those driving SH5 will have noticed a passing lane has been partially closed on Dillon's Hill, not far north of Esk Valley. You may have wondered why the cones were there.

Much of the work happened below the road out of sight. We partially closed the passing lane so crews could safely access and repair the sheetpile wall below the road. This was a challenging site that was affected by erosion after Cyclone Gabrielle left the road vulnerable to an underslip.

The repairs were initially focused on both ends of the sheetpile wall that had eroded away. Crews removed the soil around the erosion points and backfilled them with a specific type of fill that helps prevent the area becoming waterlogged and keeps the area behind the wall stable.

You can see from this photo that the crew did a great job navigating this site, which has a 15-metre drop. The abseiling crews installed a special type of woven fibre matting to prevent erosion.

Now the work is completed, the passing lane has been reopened again. Thank you for your patience and following speed limits and other instructions to help keep everyone safe.

SH5 summer maintenance update

The combination of water damage, traffic stress, erosion, and delayed repairs due to a cyclone or weather event makes roads more susceptible to damage, leading to potholes.

Managing potholes over winter

Over winter we patch repair potholes until the warmer weather when the surface can hold a permanent repair. To make a permanent repair, the surface must be above a certain temperature and the ground dry.

Managing potholes over summer

Planning for the busy summer roadworks season ahead includes a proactive plan to reduce the number of potholes next winter. This includes road repairs at Māori Gully.

Road rebuild sites

The summer programme includes a number of road rebuild sites, which usually take about a month to six weeks to complete in construction. A road rebuild essentially creates a new road surface, which can last up to 25 years. In addition to road rebuilds are a number of reseals, that take an average of 4 days.



Our crew fixing potholes

In our preliminary programme, we have identified several road rebuild sites on SH5. These include:

- Near Te Hāroto School
- Gum Tree South - between Te Pōhue and Glengarry
- Old Mill Road near Tarawera

We will come back with further information on timing and what you can expect when the plan is finalised.

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.

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