WAKA KOTAHI
NZ TRANSPORT AGENCY

MINISTERIAL BRIEFING NOTE

Subject	Ministerial Visit to Hawke's Bay
Date	5 April 2023
Briefing number	BRI-2740

Contact(s) for telephone discussion (if required)				
Name	**Position**	**Direct line**	**Cell phone**	**1st contact**
Linda Stewart	Director Regional Relationships (Taranaki/Hawke's Bay/Gisborne/Manawatu)	Section 9(2)(a)	Section 9(2)(a)	✓

Action taken by Office of the Minister

- ☐ **Noted**
- ☐ **Seen by Minister**
- ☐ **Agreed**
- ☐ **Feedback provided**
- ☐ **Forwarded to**
- ☐ **Needs change [please specify]**
- ☐ **Withdrawn**
- ☐ **Overtaken by events**

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5 April 2023

Hon Michael Wood – Minister of Transport

Ministerial Visit to Hawke's Bay

Purpose

1. This briefing provides you with an update on the Hawke's Bay roads impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle and the upper North Island flooding events ahead of your visit to the region on Thursday, 6 April 2023.

Background

2. Over the past 18 months to 2 years, the Hawke's Bay and Tairāwhiti regions have been battered with multiple severe weather events, most recently Cyclone Gabrielle. The impact on the state highway and local roading network in/around Hawke's Bay, and therefore the people in these communities, has been significant.

3. Since Cyclone Gabrielle, a considerable amount of work has been done by Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency and others as part of the immediate emergency response and subsequently, to reinstate community access to the Hawke's Bay. Work to restore access to Wairoa is on track to be completed over the next few months. Alongside this, planning to rebuild smarter for long-term resilience is underway.

Cyclone Gabrielle Response

4. Cyclone Gabrielle, and multiple preceding weather events with high rainfall, have severely impacted many parts of New Zealand, including Wairoa and other parts of Hawke's Bay and nearby Tairāwhiti region.

5. There is considerable ongoing collaboration across government including the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), with local government (elected representatives and staff) and ongoing engagement with iwi and the general public in affected areas, with local MPs also now receiving regular updates.

6. Given the number of weather events in recent times, and the scale of impact, some frustration has arisen with the length of time it is taking to restore access to some areas following Cyclone Gabrielle.

State Highway Status

7. The current status of the state highway network in the Hawke's Bay region is provided in Appendix 1 from the Cyclone Gabrielle regional map, updated at 11:00am on Tuesday, 4 April 2023.

8. SH5 between Napier and Taupo is open 24/7 with temporary traffic management and speed restrictions through while repairs continue.

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9. SH2 Wairoa to Bay View requires significant repairs including Bailey bridge installation and has not yet been fully assessed.

    - Significant works required at Devil's Elbow with significant under and over slips currently under assessment for remediation options.
    - Wairoa south to Waikare Gorge open under temporary traffic management.
    - Waikare Gorge south to Tutira open under temporary traffic management.
    - Tutira to Tangoio is closed.
    - Access between Esk Bridge and Tangoio available for residents and emergency services only.

10. Access on SH2 is open on both sides of the Waikare Bridge. The bridge has been washed out as a result of Cyclone Gabrielle. Work to construct a Bailey bridge has commenced and is expected to be installed by mid-April 2023. The full reinstatement of access along this corridor will be long-term.

11. Repairs and assessments on slips have been completed on SH38 between Frasertown and Aniwaniwa Falls. The road is open with temporary traffic management and some speed restrictions.

12. SH51 Waitangi Bridge has two lanes open under restrictions, including a 60km/h speed limit.

13. SH2/SH50 Pakowhai to Takapau junction is open to all vehicles with some areas still under traffic control

Bailey Bridge Update

14. There are currently six NEMA prioritised Bailey Bridges in the Hawke's Bay region. These are outlined in the table below.

Hawke's Bay Bailey Bridges			
Bridge & Name	**Road Controlling Authority**	**Status**	**Bailey Bridge Opening Date**
Rissington Bridge	Hastings District Council	Complete	31 March 2023
SH2 Waikare River Bridge	Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency	Proceeding with pre-implementation design/site works in progress.	Mid-April 2023
Moeangiangi Bridge on Waikare Road	Hastings District Council	Sites confirmed as priority for further assessments of technical suitability.	TBC
Whanawhana Bridge	Hastings District Council		

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Bridge & Name	Road Controlling Authority	Status	Bailey Bridge Opening Date
Ellis Wallace Bridge	Hastings District Council	Sites confirmed as priority for further assessments of technical suitability.	TBC
Mangatutu Low Level Bridge	Hastings District Council		

Update on Puketapu Bridge

15. Puketapu Bridge (Vicarage Road) was washed away as a result of Cyclone Gabrielle. Waka Kotahi is aware that NEMA assigned a medium priority for a Bailey bridge for the site in response to the information supplied by Hastings District Council and other councils. It is understood that Hastings District Council is pursuing other options for this site.

16. No further actions have been taken or are currently planned for the provision of a Bailey bridge. Waka Kotahi understands that Hastings District Council is undertaking studies to determine how to proceed with Puketapu Bridge and further details can be sought from the Council directly.

National Land Transport Funding for Hawke's Bay

17. An investment of $410 million is forecast for Hawke's Bay land transport system during the 2021-24 National Land Transport Programme (NLTP) period.

18. Investment in the region's land transport system has focused on making access and safety improvements to the network, to help get goods to market, as well as maintaining growth in tourism.

19. The funding overview for the Hawke's Bay region during the 2021-24 NLTP period is detailed below.

Hawke's Bay Funding Overview		
NLTP	**Investment in 2021/22**	**Forecast investment for 2021-24**
Total	$130 million	$410 million
Maintenance and operations	$80 million	$244 million
Public transport investment	$5.3 million	$17 million
Walking and cycling	$4.3 million	$18.5 million
Road to Zero (safety)	$8 million	$46 million
Network improvements	$8.6 million	$39 million
Maintenance and operations	$80 million	$244 million

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Refined Transport Choices Programme for Hawke's Bay

20. As part of its work to prepare a refined Transport Choices Programme, Waka Kotahi has been working with councils to refine the scope and cost of their projects and to gauge their ability to deliver. A breakdown of the revised Transport Choices projects for Hawke's Bay is attached as Appendix 2.

21. Further information on the Transport Choices: Revised Investment Programme was provided to you on 31 March 2023 (BRI-2727 & OC230276 refers).

State Highway 5 Programme Business Case (PBC)

22. Cyclone Gabrielle has impacted all key stakeholders and project team members working on the SH5 PBC.

23. Key stakeholders have indicated that the immediate response and recovery to Cyclone Gabrielle is their current priority. This means that Waka Kotahi Board approval of the SH5 PBC will be sought in September 2023. Waka Kotahi had previously advised you that Board approval would be sought in June/July 2023.

24. In addition to supporting the focus on response and recovery, the changed timing means that Waka Kotahi can review the project objectives and better align its approach with the work on the longer-term recovery and rebuild of the transport system in Hawke's Bay. Feedback from stakeholders has been supportive of this approach.

Rail Network Update

25. Cyclone Gabrielle caused extensive damage to the railway line in Hawke's Bay including buckling steel tracks, tearing out sleepers and pulling down or damaging bridges.

26. KiwiRail has established a programme-level response to the cyclone recovery, similar to the approach taken for the response to the Kaikoura Earthquake. Work-streams are being developed around assessment, recovery planning, financial control, and inter-agency co-operation including working with Waka Kotahi and local authorities to create a multi-agency approach to enable the rebuild programme.

27. KiwiRail is developing an understanding of the cost of the rebuild. Insurance assessors visited a number of damage sites with KiwiRail managers in March 2023, as part of providing their first loss-adjusting report to our insurance companies. Discussions with insurers are ongoing.

28. The Hastings – Napier section of the Napier Line is expected to take months to reopen. KiwiRail has begun clearing debris around the rail line between Hastings and Napier, and silt may have to be removed in some areas.

29. Work is also underway to remove debris from river channels near rail bridges in the Awatoto area. Track repairs are expected to begin in the coming weeks.

30. Engineering inspections have confirmed damage to Bridge 212 (north of Hastings) and Bridge 216 (north of Clive), with more extensive damage to Bridge 217 (north of Clive – which has lost piers and spans). Planning to repair the bridges is underway.

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31. The Napier – Wairoa section is expected to remain closed for some time, given our focus is on reopening the line to Napier.

32. A high-level visual inspection has been undertaken on the line between Napier and Wairoa – revealing numerous washouts/slips of varying size.

33. Ground level inspections have begun in areas that are accessible. Waka Kotahi and KiwiRail are working closely, particularly in the Esk Valley where the road and rail line run near each other.

34. A full assessment to enable KiwiRail to quantify the damage and repair cost, will take time given access to the northern part of the rail line is difficult, due to the terrain.

It is recommended that you:

1. **Note** the content of this briefing

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Linda Stewart

Director Regional Relationships (Taranaki/Hawke's Bay/Gisborne/Manawatu)

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Hon Michael Wood, Minister of Transport

Date: 2023

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