

MINISTERIAL BRIEFING NOTE

Subject	Repairs to storm-damaged roads in Northland
Date	4 November 2014
OCU number	BRI-0449
Priority	High

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)

Name	Position	Direct line	Cell phone
Ernst Zöllner	Regional Director Auckland and Northland	(09) 969 9553	021 241 5308

Action taken by Office of Minister of Transport

- Noted**
- Approved**
- Seen by Minister**
- Referred to**
- Needs change**
- Withdrawn**
- Overtaken by events**

4 November 2014

Minister of Transport

Repairs to storm damaged roads in Northland

Purpose

1. You have requested information on the repair of roads following the storms in Northland earlier this year. This follows approaches from the *Northern Advocate* to Mike Sabin, Member of Parliament for Northland, about the rate of the Government's contribution to the road repairs.
2. There is also concern in Northland about the quality of the repairs undertaken to date.

Government's contribution to the road repairs

3. The funding rates for emergency works to repair local roads are greater than the standard funding assistance rates. This funding is provided to local authorities through the National Land Transport Fund.
4. Emergency works funding as shown below has recently been approved by the NZ Transport Agency for Northland local authorities for repairs to local roads.

Local authority	Government share for 2014/15	Total investment (government share plus local authority) for 2014/15	Funding assistance rate
Far North District Council) initial response)	\$1,165,000	\$1,574,000	74 percent
Far North District Council (final construction)	\$3,668,000	\$4,957,000	74 percent
Kaipara District Council	\$1,291,000	\$1,768,000	73 percent
Whangarei District Council	\$1,475,000	\$2,732,000	54 percent

5. Emergency works financial assistance rates vary and depend on the extent of damage. The higher the cost of repairs, the higher the emergency works funding assistance rate.
6. At the time of the storms we provided the previous Minister of Transport's office with a range of potential funding assistance rate scenarios which could be applied to repair damage to local roads. These rates ranged from 58 percent to 83 percent, depending on the cost of repairs. We confirmed that the top rate could be as high as 90 percent but that this would require a very considerable repair cost. We advised caution in commenting on what the specific funding assistance rate would be in relation to the storms while the extent of the damage to the local network was unclear. The previous Minister of Transport indicated in a media statement that the funding assistance rate could be as high as 90 percent.
7. Over the past five years (2009/10 to 2013/14) the Government has provided \$23 million of emergency works funding to repair local roads in Northland. This does not include the funding shown in the table above which has been provided in the current financial year.
8. Over the same period, the Government has provided \$14 million of emergency works funding to repair state highways in Northland. Since July 2014, it has provided \$7.013 million for the same purpose. All emergency works funding for state highways is provided through the National Land Transport Fund.
9. In the past five years the total investment in Northland's local road and state highway network through the National Land Transport Fund has been \$480 million.

Scope and quality of the repairs to date

10. All work has been completed to repair damage sustained on State Highway 1 (Brynderwyns) and at State Highway 12 at Kaihu. The detour road around the State Highway 1 Maromaku slip has been completed. The permanent repair to State Highway 1 is expected to be completed by 30 June 2015.
11. Temporary repairs were made to pot holes during and immediately after the storms. The repairs were temporary due to the poor weather. All works are programmed to be completed in the current construction season which runs from 1 October 2014 to 31 March 2015.
12. All local road priority one sites identified by local authorities have had funding approved. Works are in various stages of design, investigation and programming. These will be completed by June 2015. Priority two sites are programmed to be completed in the next construction season which runs from 1 October 2015 to 31 March 2016.
13. The Far North District Council initially estimated the cost to repair storm-damaged roads in the Far North could be up to \$40 million. This was a very early estimate made before other options were considered. The Council and the Transport Agency are now working on lower-cost alternative options repairs where appropriate. These lower-cost options will not affect the quality of the road once the repairs are completed.
14. The Council is currently preparing an application for a further \$1.2 million funding and is expected to request another \$1.5 million in the near future.

Recommendation

15. It is recommended that you note the content of this briefing.



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Ernst Zöllner

Regional Director Auckland and Northland
DDI: (09) 969 9553 / Mobile: 021 241 5308

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Hon Simon Bridges, Minister of Transport

Noted/Approved/Declined

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Date

RELEASED UNDER THE
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT