

## MIN-3912 July weather event #3, AM 21 July 2022

21 July 2022

Update on emergency works site around the East Coast/Bay of Plenty and Tasman regions following significant rainfall and network failures. Further updates will be provided proactively as the situation evolves.

### Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's response:

- A National Emergency Response Team (NERT) has been stood up due to the overnight developments across the country. This is due to the situations now being of national importance rather than isolated in the regions only.
- There are two critical areas currently – East Coast/Bay of Plenty and Tasman.
- Rob Campbell (Regional Manager Maintenance and Operations Waikato/Bay of Plenty) is leading the NERT. Mark Owen (Regional Manager Maintenance and Operations Wellington/Top of South) has been nominated as the national spokesperson for Waka Kotahi.

### State Highway 35 between Ōpōtiki and Gisborne

- Motu River Bridge
  - Around 9pm 20 July 2022, the road was closed to all traffic after the eastbound lane from the centreline collapsed into the river.
  - Rock is being brought in to stabilise the westbound lane to open it to traffic again safely. This is challenged by the rising river levels and the safety of staff. The quarries involved have confirmed that there is enough rock in their stocks to supply the works.
  - MBIE have pledged support to ensure the work to reinstate the route can happen.
  - Photos of the site:



- Kopuaroa (north of Te Puia Springs)
  - Due to the risk of truck roll-overs and the narrow lane width at Kopuaroa, SH35 will be closed to heavy vehicles with trailers after 11.59pm Friday 22 July. Truck and trailer units travelling before 11.59pm Friday 22 July will need to proceed with caution through the site.
  - After 11.59pm Friday 22 July, heavy vehicles with trailers will be turned around at Ruatoria and Te Puia Springs. Heavy vehicles without trailers will be allowed through the site.

#### **State Highway 2 between Gisborne and Ōpōtiki – at Matawai**

- At 3am 21 July 2022 the road was closed to all traffic after one large and two smaller slips occurred in the Waioeka gorge.
- Work has commenced to reinstate at least one clear lane across the corridor. The two smaller slips have been pushed back to open one lane. Work on the larger slip continues. There is still running water coming through the slips, so there is a risk of further incidents occurring.
- As there is no viable detour with both SH2 and SH35 closed between Gisborne and Ōpōtiki, the priority is to reinstate SH2. They are targeting to reopen one lane for lunchtime today.

#### **State Highway 36 between Rotorua and Tauranga – at Mangapouri Bridge**

- State Highway 36 between Rotorua and Tauranga was closed to all vehicles from 10am today to 7pm Friday 22 July for repairs at Mangapouri bridge. The alternative routes are SH2 and SH33 through Pāpāmoa and Paengaroa, or SH5 / SH28 / SH29 over the Kaimai Range.
- The abutment of the single-lane Mangapouri bridge has scoured resulting in a hole beneath the road and uneven surface on the bridge deck.

#### **State Highway 25 east of Coromandel**

- SH25 is closed 1.5km east of Coromandel town due to a slip. Assessments are underway to see if the slip is still active. If it is not, it is expected the road will be opened by the end of the day, otherwise further assessments will need to be completed before an opening date can be provided.

#### **State Highway 6 west of Murchison**

- A rockfall closed State Highway 6 at Dellows Bluff, west of Murchison on 20 July 2022. The closure is set to last for several days and possibly longer.
- The closure affects travel between Nelson and the West Coast via the Buller Gorge or Springs Junction (no direct route), and travellers from Nelson to Christchurch will not be able to use the inland route.
- Barriers are being put in place to protect traffic while the rockface is stabilised. Once this is completed, one lane of traffic will be reopened to the public. More information regarding when the barriers will be in place and traffic allowed on the road will be provided on 22 July 2022. It is expected that one lane will be reopened later in the weekend.

- Until this work is complete, there remains a high risk of rockfall that would create significant risk to the safety of road users. As we have seen, the vulnerable rock face is fracturing into very large rocks, and it is not possible to predict where or when these may fall.

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