

From: [Seb Brown](#)
To: [Milan Caird](#)
Cc: [Jemma Dacy](#); [Cody Davidson](#); [Official Correspondence](#); [James Sorensen](#)
Subject: RE: SH 35 - Opotiki to Motu River
Date: Tuesday, 19 July 2022 5:51:13 pm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

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Kia ora Milan

Thanks for this update – this is useful. I will pass it onto Minister McAnulty. I expect he'd appreciate further updates as the situation evolves, so I may ask for a further update tomorrow.

Ngā mihi

Seb Brown

Private Secretary – Transport

M: [section 9\(2\)\(a\)](#)

From: Milan Caird [mailto:milan.caird@nzta.govt.nz]
Sent: Tuesday, 19 July 2022 5:18 PM
To: Seb Brown <Seb.Brown@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Jemma Dacy <Jemma.Dacy@parliament.govt.nz>; Cody Davidson <Cody.Davidson@nzta.govt.nz>; Official Correspondence <Official.Correspondence@nzta.govt.nz>; James Sorensen <James.Sorensen@nzta.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: SH 35 - Opotiki to Motu River

Dear Seb,

Thank you for your email requesting an update on the SH35 partial road washout east of Ōpōtiki.

The Motu river has swollen significantly with the recent rain and has undermined the road. Cracks have developed near the centreline of the road, and it is now down to a single lane. The cracks are growing very slowly. A crew monitored the situation overnight and will continue to do so. There is one other site still under traffic management along SH35 after weather events earlier in the year. Rain is forecast to continue until Thursday and there is a chance of a total closure if things worsen.

State Highway 35 between Ōpōtiki and Gisborne

- West of the Motu River bridge, cracking was discovered along the eastbound lane immediately adjacent to the riverbank and is reduced to a single lane to keep traffic a safe distance from the river.
- This route is suitable for light vehicles only. All heavy vehicles including over-weight and over-dimension vehicles are unable to use this route until further notice, with all permits for SH35 between Ōpōtiki and Gisborne suspended.
- Traffic signals will be in place overnight for stop/go and contractors will be on site monitoring. If the cracking develops further, the road may need to be closed at short

notice.

- Crews are working to build a groyne of rock in the river upstream of the scour site to protect the highway.

State Highway 2 between Gisborne and Ōpōtiki

- SH2 will remain reduced to a single lane at the site of an underslip approximately 7km west of Matawai (on the southern approach to the Motu Bridge) between Gisborne and Ōpōtiki
- The road remains open to all vehicles at this stage although the site is being monitored for further damage.

Crews will continue to monitor the wider network to ensure the safety of road users throughout the weather event.

If Minister McAnulty requires any further updates in the next few days regarding the situation on SH35, we would be happy to discuss options with you tomorrow morning.

You may also wish to pass any updates to Minister Allen and her office, given her interest as the local MP.

Kind regards,

Milan Caird

Advisor, Ministerial Services

Te Waka Kotua | Engagement & Partnerships

Email: milan.caird@nzta.govt.nz

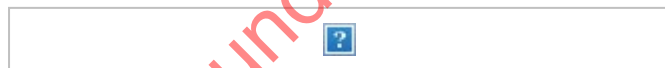
Phone: section 9(2)(a)

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency

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From: Seb Brown <Seb.Brown@parliament.govt.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, 19 July 2022 12:23 pm

To: Official Correspondence <Official.Correspondence@nzta.govt.nz>

Cc: Jemma Dacy <Jemma.Dacy@parliament.govt.nz>; Leisa Coley <Leisa.Coley@nzta.govt.nz>

Subject: FW: SH 35 - Opotiki to Motu River

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Kia ora OC

Minister McAnulty has received the email below from Minister Allan. I understand David Speirs has already spoken to Minister Allan directly (see highlighted part below), but if there's a further update you can provide on the situation, please could you let me know as soon as possible.

Ngā mihi

Seb Brown

Private Secretary – Transport

M: **section 9(2)(a)**

From: Hon Kiritapu Allan

Sent: Monday, 18 July 2022 9:30 PM

To: Kieran McAnulty <Kieran.McAnulty@parliament.govt.nz>

Cc: Paige Sims <Paige.Sims@parliament.govt.nz>; Stefan Weir <Stefan.Weir@parliament.govt.nz>; Lyn Riesterer <LynR@odc.govt.nz>; Aileen Lawrie <AileenL@odc.govt.nz>

Subject: SH 35 - Opotiki to Motu River

Kia ora Hon McAnulty

I've had numerous calls from Opotiki District Council this evening about a crack in the road on SH35 that is growing to a level they are concerned the road will be required to close down. Currently the road is operating as a single lane due to the damage to the road. Waka Kotahi are there monitoring 24/7 currently but the local community have raised concerns that civil defence may need to be activated in the event that the road is closed and several rural coastal communities are disconnected and isolated for several days.

I understand discussions between the Deputy Mayor and Waka Kotahi Regional Manager David Spiers this evening have led to an agreement to urgently seek supplies in case of multiple communities being unable to access goods for days.

I have looped in the Mayor, Her Worship Lyn Riesterer and the Opotiki District Council CEO, Aileen Lawrie. I understand the Opotiki Group Controller is on alert as well.

Depending on how things track through the course of the evening, I may go and check on things at first light.

Best

Hon Kiri Allan – MP for East Coast

Minister of Justice | Associate Minister of Finance | Associate Minister for the Environment | Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

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