

1 Ngāruawāhia remedial and safety works

Project ramps up over summer

Night-time detours are ahead as work continues to bring the Ngāruawāhia section of the Waikato Expressway up to 110km/h standard.

The night works will see safety barriers moved, lanes surfaced and traffic switched and are all part of a push to ramp up progress on the job this summer.

NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi contractors require a block of closures – Sunday to Thursday each week, running from 14 January to early February.

The detours in place are different for each direction due to roadworks in Ngāruawāhia town which can't accommodate southbound state highway traffic.

The northbound detour is via Ngāruawāhia on the old highway between Horotiu and Gordonton Road interchanges. HPMVs must use SH1B and overweight vehicles need to use SH2/27, under an existing overweight permit.

Southbound detour traffic will use SH1B, rejoining SH1 via Lake Road, but heavy vehicles (50 tonnes and above) must use SH1B, including the local road detour around Telephone Road, and connect to SH1 again at Cambridge or via SH26 into Hamilton.

Night-time detours ahead

Time: 7pm-5am

Northbound: January 14 to 18

Southbound: January 21 to 25

Southbound: January 30 to Feb 1

Northbound: February 4, and 6 to 8

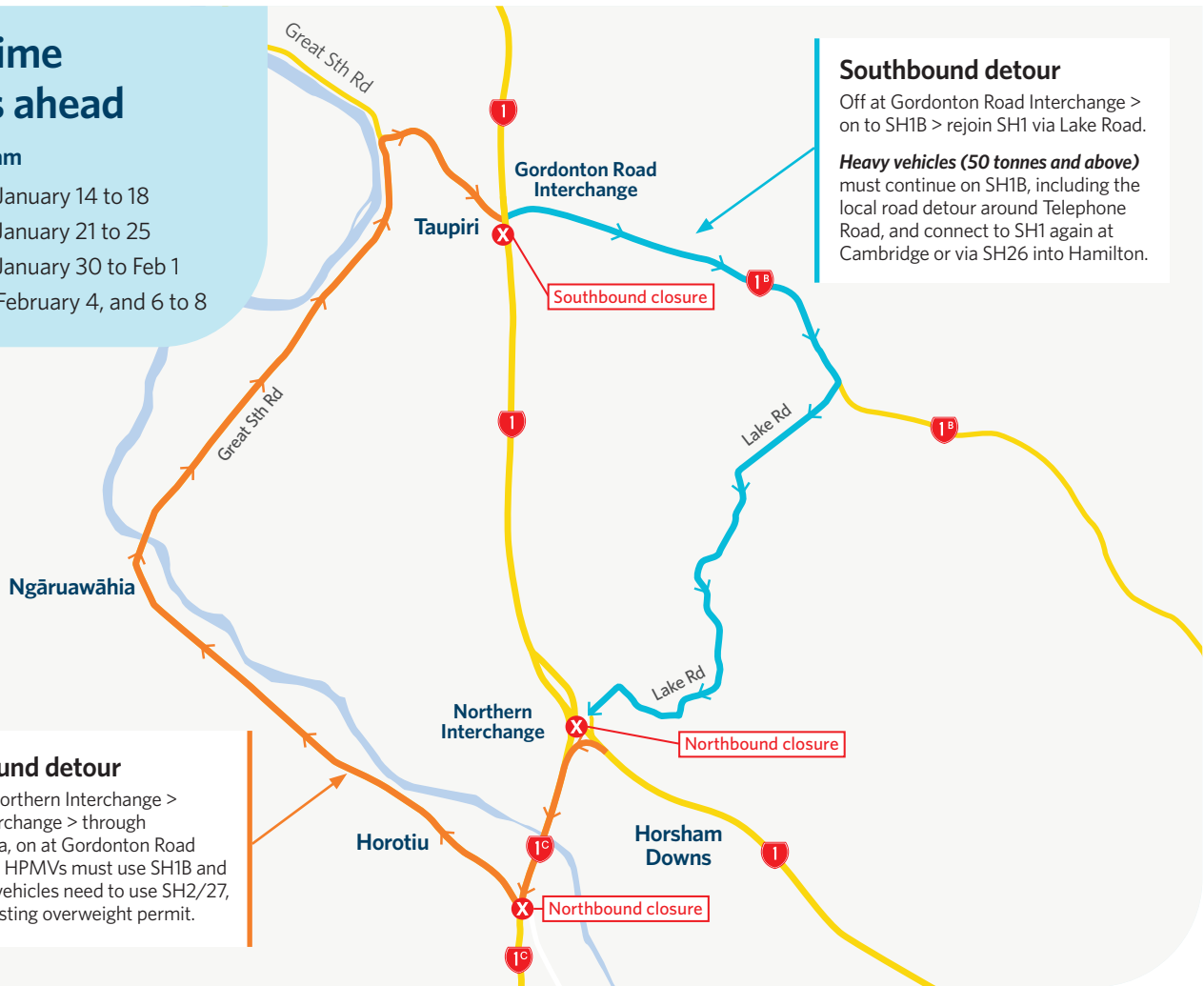
Southbound detour

Off at Gordonton Road Interchange > on to SH1B > rejoin SH1 via Lake Road.

Heavy vehicles (50 tonnes and above) must continue on SH1B, including the local road detour around Telephone Road, and connect to SH1 again at Cambridge or via SH26 into Hamilton.

Northbound detour

Off SH1 at Northern Interchange > Horotiu Interchange > through Ngāruawāhia, on at Gordonton Road Interchange. HPMVs must use SH1B and overweight vehicles need to use SH2/27, under an existing overweight permit.



Widening and raising the highway



Progress continues along with managing up to 20,000 vehicles a day through the site.

We are working to bring the Ngāruawāhia section of the expressway up to the same standard as its neighbouring 110km/h sections, and work has accelerated this summer.

“An agreed design solution and work programme, along with more resources from the contractor, has seen work step up this construction season,” says Transport Agency Waikato-Bay of Plenty Infrastructure Delivery manager Jo Wilton.

“In the three months leading up to Christmas we saw much more progress and people can expect that to continue as they widen and raise the highway.”

On-going work includes:

- Reshaping and hardening the median area - to limit moisture entering the pavement and prevent further failures
- Drainage improvements
- Resurfacing, depending on the existing pavement condition

A final, continuous asphalt surface will complete the repair works, replacing the temporary chipseal and asphalt surfaces which have been in place during earlier temporary repairs and while moisture monitoring was conducted.

The safety improvements needed to get to 110km/h standard include making side barriers continuous, upgrading some barriers, additional maintenance and turnaround bays for emergency services, shoulder widening and relocating some lighting.

The Ngāruawāhia section opened in late 2013. It was built by Fletcher Construction under a design and construct contract. The current works, started in spring 2023, are led by Fletcher Construction with the repair portion completed under a cost-sharing arrangement with the Transport Agency.

The works are expected to finish in mid-2025 although the Transport Agency and its contractors are continuing to look at programming and resources to finish the job earlier.



Thick layers of asphalt are used to build up the highway.

A big thank you from us. On behalf of NZ Transport Agency and Fletcher Construction, thank you to road users and nearby residents for your patience and understanding while we get this important work completed.




Got a question?

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