



Ngāruawāhia remedial and safety works



Asphalt being laid through the centre of the repair site.

Work stepping up this season

We are bringing the Ngāruawāhia section of SH1-Waikato Expressway up to 110km/h standard and there is a big push to progress this over the upcoming construction season.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency aims to have the Ngāruawāhia section (between the Horotiu and Gordonton Road interchanges) upgraded to the same standard as neighbouring expressway sections. However progress has been slow since getting under way late last year.

An agreed solution and programme, along with more resources from the contractor, are expected to see work accelerated this summer.

There will be only a brief break in work over the Christmas-New Year period, and the traffic management and temporary safety barriers will stay in place over the summer holidays.

The steel barriers keep workers safe and separate from SH1 traffic. The barriers create a safe space for workers, but mean traffic is restricted to a single lane in each direction.

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 are led by Fletcher Construction with the repair portion completed under a cost-sharing arrangement with Waka Kotahi.

The works are expected to finish in mid-2025 although Waka Kotahi and its contractors are continuing to look at programming and resources to have the work finished earlier.

Traffic management ahead

We have road layout changes and some night-time detours ahead.

Upcoming changes will see southbound traffic shifted on to the shoulder on a temporary surface, creating space for permanent resurfacing on the traffic lanes. These changes will see the safety barriers moved which will require occasional night-time closures.

Major southbound surfacing works in November-December will require a block of night closures and detours for approximately five weeks. The closures will be Sunday to Thursday each week, running from 12 November to 14 December, 7pm-5am.

Due to works happening at the same time in Ngāruawāhia, we can't use the old highway for a detour so southbound traffic will be sent along SH1B-Gordonton Road. Light traffic can turn off into Lake Road to rejoin SH1 at the Northern Interchange.

However, heavy vehicles over 50 tonnes must use SH1B, including the local road detour at Telephone Road, and connect to SH1 again at Cambridge or via SH26 into Hillcrest.

When these night-time detours are required roadside message boards will provide a week's notice, along with our usual communications.



Higgins Site Traffic Management Supervisor (STMS) Jolene Mac Lean is interviewed for a road worker safety video recently.

Workers get on with the job

A big thank you to people driving through the Ngāruawāhia section works site who are showing respect for Fletcher Construction staff and their contractors.

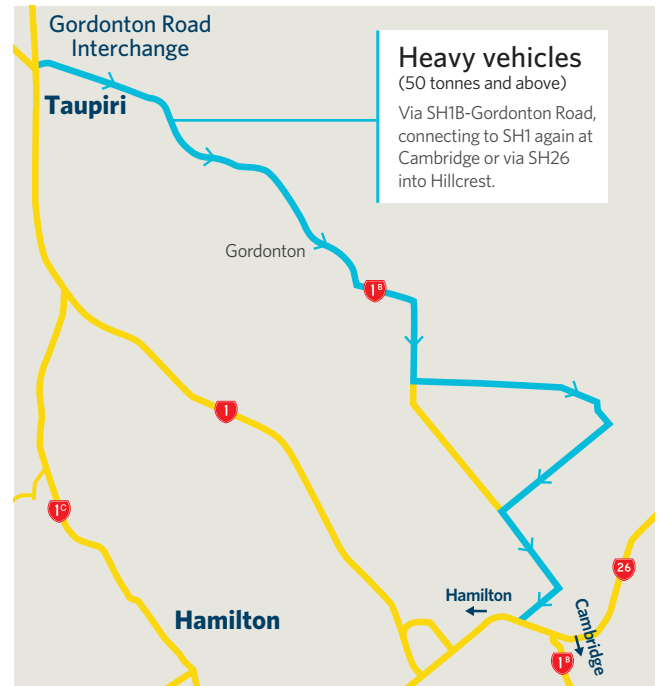
The ongoing single lanes and other traffic management lead to congestion at peak times and some motorists were earlier directing their frustration at road workers.

"The people on the ground are there in all types of weather and don't deserve to be abused," says Waka Kotahi regional infrastructure manager Jo Wilton.

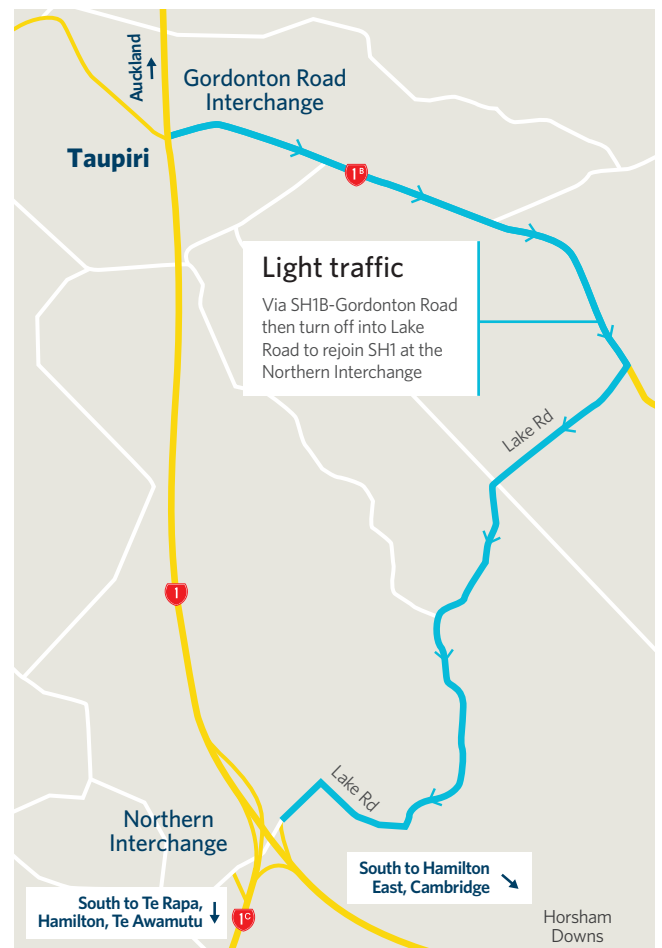
"Since we highlighted this earlier this year the situation has improved dramatically. Traffic is also flowing better as people merge into a single lane earlier."

The Higgins traffic management team on site were recently included in a Waka Kotahi video focusing on road-worker safety.

Southbound night-time detour routes Nov-Dec



Heavy vehicles
(50 tonnes and above)
Via SH1B-Gordonton Road, connecting to SH1 again at Cambridge or via SH26 into Hillcrest.



Light traffic
Via SH1B-Gordonton Road then turn off into Lake Road to rejoin SH1 at the Northern Interchange

A big thank you from us. On behalf of Waka Kotahi 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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