

Hon Kieran McAnulty

Minister for Emergency Management
Minister for Racing
Deputy Leader of the House
Associate Minister of Local Government
Associate Minister of Transport



Philip S Hope
Chief Executive
Eastland Wood Council
By email: Philip@eastlandwood.co.nz

Dear Philip

Thank you for your emails of 23 July and 2 August 2022 regarding road maintenance and investment in the Tairāwhiti region. I have forwarded your correspondence to Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency and asked them to contact you to discuss your concerns and consultation opportunities in the future.

I recently met with Waka Kotahi, local government and iwi officials following the recent weather event that has greatly impacted the Tairāwhiti region. Waka Kotahi is working towards longer-term fixes for the two major sites on State Highway 35, Busby's Hill and Kopuaroa Hill. These works include improving the resilience of the sites to reduce impacts to the Tairāwhiti network when further storms roll through the region. The site near Kopuaroa Hill is now open to light vehicles and category 1 and 2 trucks (up to 4.5m wide).

Waka Kotahi has advised me that it is currently updating its Connecting Tairāwhiti Business Case. This will enable them to identify the most vulnerable points on the local network and progress these sites for a targeted response, alongside projects already identified by this business case. Tairāwhiti is a challenging region, due to the geological conditions and its susceptibility to heavy weather.

I am optimistic the targeted approach Waka Kotahi is taking to network resilience in the region will ensure your communities and economy is able to remain connected to the rest of the country when heavy weather events occur.

If you have any further questions, or would like to discuss this matter further, please email official.correspondence@nzta.govt.nz.

Ngā mihi nui,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Kieran McAnulty'.

Hon. Kieran McAnulty
Associate Minister of Transport