Proactive Release

will be considered to be released in full

MINO-578 – update on Auckland flooding for post Cabinet press conference

31 January 2023

Provide a brief update to support the post Cabinet press conference on the Auckland flooding.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's response:

- The entire Auckland network has been impacted by significant rainfall which caused many road closures across the state highway network. Between 7pm Friday and 6am Saturday, the Auckland state highway network was fully reopened. Over the course of Saturday, Sunday and Monday, lane closures have been put in place to clear up additional slips, debris and fallen trees.

- All state highways in Auckland have now been re-opened; however, State Highway 16 (SH16) continues to be affected by high tide flooding, becoming impassable in sections. The Twin Coast Discovery Highway on-ramp connection to SH1 is also closed due to damage. As a result, the toll on the Northern Gateway was paused from 5pm yesterday until 10pm Sunday 5 February (or until the local state of emergency is lifted) to give motorists who need to travel a reliable, free route via SH1.

- 1300 tonnes of dirt were cleared from a slip from SH1 Motorway (Lonely Track).

- SH1 Brynderwyn to Waipu in Northland remains closed from the SH12 intersection. While slips have been cleared in this site, there is a further risk of additional slips. SH1 Mangamuka Gorge remains closed for long term repairs from previous weather events.

- The most serious state highway network damage remains SH25A with a total underslip now occurring in one section that will be complex to reinstate. There are also significant slips on other access roads in the Coromandel.

- Temporary traffic management is in place across a number of state highways while crews continue to clear surface flooding, debris and fallen trees.

- Waka Kotahi has been providing regular updates on traffic and travel information on its channels, and its Journey Planner site has seen a huge increase in user traffic, with 668,174 page views on Saturday, up from the usual daily traffic of 20,000-30,000. Waka Kotahi encourages motorists to use this site before undertaking any travel.

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