

MINO-429 Dome Valley

20 July 2022

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency has been asked to provide some further information on the changes in cost and scope for the Dome Valley project in response to recent Written Parliamentary Questions that Minister Wood has responded to on this project.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's response:

As noted in the responses to Written Questions 23589 and 23590, there have been changes to the scope and anticipated quantum of work required to deliver the Dome Valley Safety Improvements project, which have resulted in changes to the overall cost of the project, and the expected completion date.

The contributing factors to the changes in the project scope and costs are as follows:

- Emergency works to structurally re-line an existing culvert that was reaching its end of life and consequentially threatening the security of the road. The substandard condition of this culvert was only determined during construction.
- Full rehabilitation of pavement on a stretch of road near Sheep World, which required renewal during the project's occupancy of the area
- Ongoing maintenance repairs to the existing road surface to maintain safety prior to the final chip seal layers being applied, which was not fully estimated at the start of the project.
- Unforeseen ground conditions due to geotechnical and topographic challenges which resulted in increased requirements for earth retaining structures.
- Enhanced stormwater treatment areas were required to satisfy project consenting conditions, resulting in a new scope to design and construct a higher standard of stormwater treatment than was originally allowed for.
- The provision of a safer pedestrian crossing for pedestrians using the Te Araroa Walkway where it crosses State Highway 1 at the Dome Summit was added to the scope of the project to improve the safety of pedestrians at the same time as the traffic safety improvements were being made.
- The Grimmers Bridge to Pūhoi to Warkworth section of Works was added to the scope of the Dome Valley project. This was performed at a lower cost once it was added to the Dome Valley project.
- High numbers of over dimension loads used the corridor during the scheduled night-time works, which saw cost increases associated with traffic management and delays to the night-time works programme.
- Property acquisition costs were higher than originally budgeted, resulting in an increase to the overall costs of the project

Delays to the expected completion date:

- The project was originally planned to be delivered in five stages. Stages 2 and 4 were completed in December 2020. Stages 3 and 5 commenced in November 2020 and are scheduled for completion in August 2022. Stage 1 was placed on hold in early 2019 due to property access and geotechnical issues.
- The original planned completion date for stages 2-5 was February 2022. COVID-19 has caused delays to the project's delivery timeframe through the lockdowns, and extensive supply chain and resourcing issues which are still ongoing. Stage 1 has now been rescope and the works will be delivered in the coming summer period. The expected completion date for the entirety of the project is March 2023.