



July 2023

Hawke's Bay Cyclone Gabrielle Rail Recovery

Kia ora

The rebuilding of the rail infrastructure has continued apace around Hawke's Bay in July, with some key connections being established on and off the railway line.

On the track at Bridge 217, which suffered widespread damage in the cyclone, major progress has been made in reinstating the bridge infrastructure, with significant construction work underway to complete the temporary rail bridge solution that will help to reconnect this crucial section of line. We are looking at reopening this stretch of line in September.

Work is gathering momentum in making sections of the damaged track between Napier and Wairoa safe so as to prevent further deterioration over winter.

Off the track the agreement to form the Transport Rebuild East Coast (TREC) Alliance kicked into higher gear, with the Alliance starting to bring people on board, and planning getting underway for its first few months of operation.

We appreciate your patience as we reinstate the rail infrastructure in Hawke's Bay.

If you have any questions about the work we're doing, feel free to email us at contactus@kiwirail.co.nz

Daniel Headifen

KiwiRail Programme Director

Hastings - Napier progress

The key rail link at Bridge 217, which suffered wholesale damage in the cyclone, losing large sections of track and several piers and bridge spans, has undergone a significant amount of work to make the temporary bridge solution at the site a reality.

The piles to replace the damaged bridge piers, onto which will be placed the temporary bridge spans have been sunk and concreting of several has been completed. The first temporary bridge spans have also been lowered into position, for the new railway track to be bolted onto. Once that work is completed

Continued on next page



Good progress on temporary repairs to Bridge 217, Awatoto (south of Napier)

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Continued from previous page

the supporting scaffolding will be taken down and the bridge will move one stage closer to reopening.

Earthworks at either end of the bridge structure is also underway, with the necessary material for the embankment starting to be placed on site. The area in between the Ngaruroro and Tutaekuri Rivers in particular has a large amount of repairs to do as the rail formation was washed away as the flood waters of these rivers combined at this point. Work is also continuing on the making the rail corridor either side of the bridge ready for the rail track to be laid, with resleepering and rail installation set to be underway in the next few weeks.

We are expecting that the rail line to Napier will reopen in September.



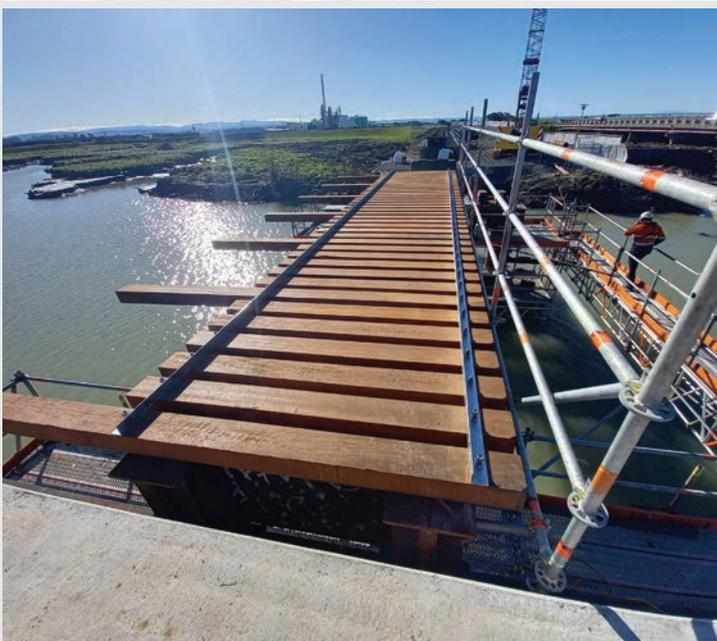
Photos.

Top: The temporary bridge spans are carefully craned into position.

Middle: The bridge spans being manoeuvred into place.

Bottom left: The bridge span is slotted into position, ready for the rails to be fastened on to.

Bottom right: Work gets underway on the bridge embankments.



Napier - Wairoa progress

The railway line between Napier and Wairoa was one of the worst affected by Cyclone Gabrielle, with more than 300 sites suffering varying degrees of damage, from relatively minor slips and debris damage to some sections of line, such as 7kms of the line in the Esk Valley, falling victim to significant enough damage that some track sections need to be fully replaced.

The team dedicated to working on this stretch of railway have continued to focus on making the rail corridor safe for winter weather and to prevent further damage occurring. This includes removing cyclone debris from the line and getting drainage paths working again.

Progress is also being made on assessing what work on this section of line will be carried out by the Transport Recovery East Coast (TREC) Alliance. The details of this will likely be fleshed out and finalised over the course of the next few months, as the Alliance kicks into gear.



Photos: Above right: Wairoa before. Bottom Wairoa after.