



June 2023

Hawke's Bay Cyclone Gabrielle Rail Recovery

Kia ora

It's been a busy month for our Hawkes Bay rail recovery and around Awatoto we have moved well beyond clean up into the rebuild proper.

It's especially encouraging to see such noticeable progress at Bridge 217, which was hit hard by water and debris in the cyclone, losing heavy concrete piers and the force of the flood bursting through its spans. There's still a lot of work to be done but after a number of months we are now seeing the temporary rail bridge appear.

In mid-June it was a pleasure to host Emergency Management Minister Kieran McNulty, local MP Anna Lorck and representatives from the National Emergency Management Agency, who got to see the bridge work up close. They all got to have a talk with the workers on site and were all really impressed with the scale and speed of the works.

We are also pleased to be part of the Transport Rebuild East Coast (TREC) Alliance, and are in the process of integrating our teams to see the benefits of a truly joined up road and rail approach, particularly for the rebuild between Napier and Wairoa.

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

Cyclone Gabrielle did major damage to the rail line between Hastings and Napier, especially in Awatoto where tracks were all but washed away by flood waters and the rail bridge (Bridge 217), next to the Waitangi road bridge, lost piers and spans.

Substantial amounts of debris has been cleared, damaged sections of rail removed and design work for the washed out embankment are almost finished.

With damaged parts of Bridge 217 removed, over the last month we have made excellent progress on temporary repairs to that structure.

Using steel casings, which were railed from Christchurch up to



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

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Hastings, our contractor has driven 10 of the 12 piles from the south riverbank and installed temporary works on these to allow the construction of the headstocks. A crane pad has also been built on the north side of the river, to allow for time savings by completing the northern most piling and span

installation from that side. The pier works will be followed by the installation of temporary rail spans from KiwiRail's "spare span" stocks, which are kept for emergency works like this.

We're still expecting to be able to reopen the rail line to Napier later this year.



Emergency Management Minister Kieran McNulty (2nd from left), local MP Anna Lorck, representatives from the National Emergency Management Agency and KiwiRail staff, visiting Bridge 217 in June

Napier - Wairoa progress

The rail line from Napier to Wairoa suffered extensive damage in Cyclone Gabrielle, with more than 300 damage sites along its length. Many of these are fairly minor, but there are some major damage sites in places that are difficult to access.

We continue working to understand and quantify the time, cost and material requirements for repairing the line and our teams have continued undertaking site visits, building off the experience they gained in doing the damage inspections.

The focus of our physical works at the moment, is on "make safe" works – such as clearing culverts and drainage pathways, removing ballast that has been washed off the rail corridor, clearing tunnel portals and clearing debris away from rail bridges on the line. This is about making the corridor safe and reducing the risk of further weather damage over winter.

We are still at a relatively early stage on the Napier – Wairoa line, and we are still unable to provide a timeframe for when it could be reopened.



'Make safe' work between Napier and Wairoa - clearing ballast that had washed off the rail line, blocking culverts, in Bayview



Clearing the portal to Tunnel 9, at Kotemaori – before (left) and after (right)



Clearing drains next to the track near Wairoa, to lessen flood risk over winter – before (left) and after (right)