

Auckland's Metro Programme Newsletter

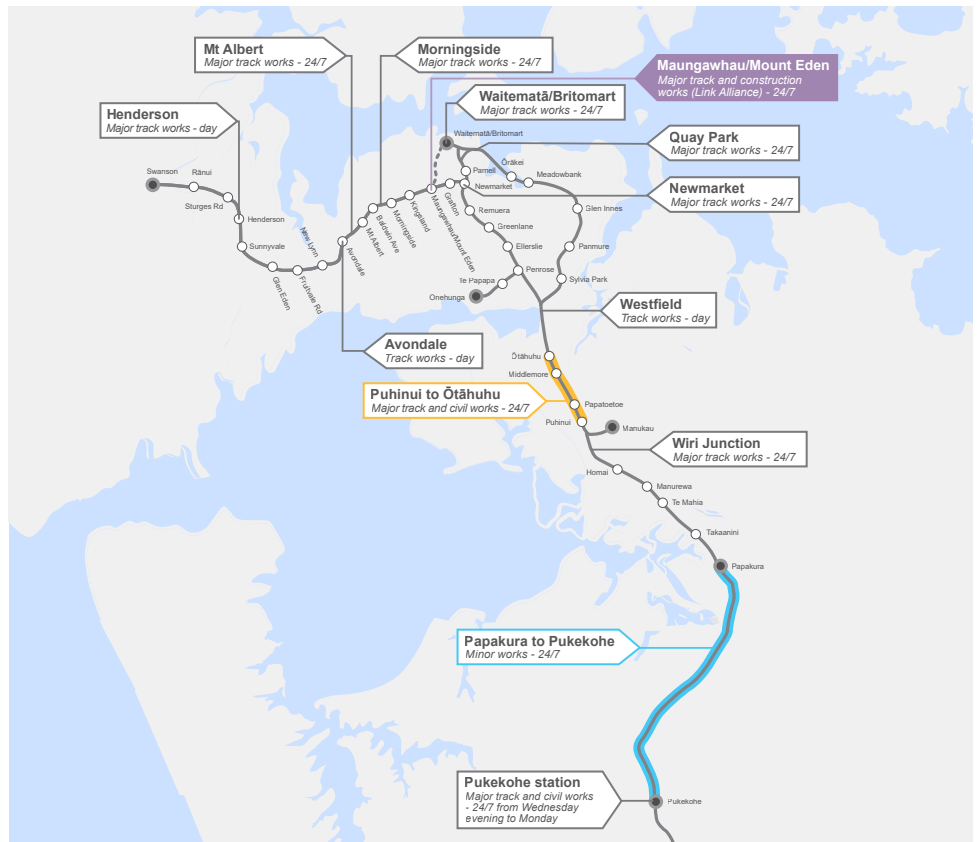
October 2022

Major works across Auckland announced in Rail Network Rebuild – see p2

Labour Weekend Block of Line

KiwiRail and Link Alliance (City Rail Link) teams will be busy across the Auckland metro network throughout the upcoming long weekend. To do all the work safely, passenger services will not run from Saturday 22 October to Monday 24 October (inclusive) however some trains and maintenance vehicles will still run so take care at level crossings. Most works will be during the night and day. There will be some sites where work is planned for the day only, however on these sites, night works may be required.

A focus for the weekend will be City Rail Link works at Maungawhau/ Mount Eden and other major track works associated with readying the network for CRL opening. Work will continue on the Third Main track between Puhinui and Middlemore; major works will be completed at Pukekohe Station; and new signals will be installed as work continues on the electrification to Pukekohe.



Discouraging nesting Dotterels

It's not often you hear of discouraging native tūturiwhatu (dotterel) nesting, but that's exactly what KiwiRail is doing at downtown Auckland's busy Quay Park junction - where trains pass regularly into Britomart and the city's port.

The endangered birds like to nest in barren open spaces says KiwiRail Project Engineer Kyle Yozin.

"Last year a nesting pair selected a prime trackside spot in our ballast. They successfully hatched two chicks right next to a City Rail Link construction zone. This year we want to make sure any nesting birds are protected - and here the best protection measure was to encourage a new home."

KiwiRail worked with an ecologist to encourage the birds to relocate ahead of the nesting season. Following a site assessment, bunting and fencing were installed to break up sight lines and discourage the birds.



Installing fencing to break up the birds' line of sight

"Teams were closely watched by a pair of tūturiwhatu while preventative measures were installed. They were highly curious but not actively protective. Moving forwards the site will be monitored, and if any of the birds do nest we will ensure they are isolated from any construction," Kyle says.

"While it's challenging to work around them, everyone recognizes the importance of caring for them and is determined to work together to solve this."

Rail Network Rebuild – major works across Auckland planned

Earlier this month KiwiRail and Auckland Transport (AT) announced the Rail Network Rebuild, which will see sections of rail line across the city progressively closed and upgraded over the next few years.

We will only work on one section of the rail network at a time and commuter trains will continue to run on other parts of the network.

We fully appreciate the disruption this will cause commuters and ask you to bear with us. We need to get as much of this work done as possible before the City Rail Link (CRL) is completed, which is currently expected by the end of 2024.

This map shows where we will be working over the coming years – starting with the Southern Line between Ōtāhuhu and Newmarket and the Onehunga Line, which will remain closed after the usual Christmas/New Year network-wide shut down until late March 2023.

There will be some rail replacement buses, and AT has an extensive network of scheduled bus services that you can use when your section of train line is closed. AT will let commuters know what their alternative travel options are ahead of each section of rail line closing - Southern Line and Onehunga Line commuters will start to see this information in November 2022. There will be ambassadors at the stations to

help you get where you need to be, and AT's Journey Planner and AT Mobile app will be updated at least two weeks before work starts on a new section of rail line.

AT will also let commuters know when work on a section is complete and the train line is open again. Please keep an eye on their website.

Rail-side neighbours will hear from KiwiRail in advance of works and can sign up for our community notifications by emailing contactus@kiwirail.co.nz with their name and location.

For more information

Commuters: www.AT.govt.nz/RailRebuild

Neighbours: www.kiwirail.co.nz/akl/railnetworkrebuild



What is the Rail Network Rebuild?

The City Rail Link reconfigures Waitematā/Britomart, allowing trains to continue through the tunnel and out across Auckland. It will enable more frequent commuter trains across the city – but for that to work we need to make sure the existing network is up to standard.

The Rail Network Rebuild is replacing the foundations the tracks sit on – some of which have not been renewed since the Auckland network started being built in the

1870s. Given the scale of the work, it could take decades to complete if we only worked over weekends or holidays, as we normally do.

The Rail Network Rebuild is crucial to enabling more reliable and more frequent commuter trains and, combined with our other rail improvement projects, will deliver a world-class railway for Auckland.



Surveying Auckland's network

Meet Auckland-based KiwiRail Field Asset Engineer Walaa. She's walked around 100km, working nearly every weekend over the last 8 months - find out why here...

TELL US ABOUT WHAT YOU DO?

Essentially, I'm finding any issues on the network that need fixing to get it ready for the City Rail Link (CRL). These are being fixed by our Network Rebuild team over the next few years.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT YOUR JOB?

Maintaining an asset is harder than building a new one. It's satisfying to figure out the best way forwards to get our network up to modern standards.

WHAT'S THE HARDEST BIT ABOUT THE JOB?

The scale of it! Logging 100km of track and trackside details is a huge task. It can be

tiring especially when hand digging a 30cm hole to find out what the asset condition is below, and it's either pouring with rain or blazing sunshine.

HOW DO YOU STAY MOTIVATED?

I love problem solving and knowing my work will improve the track and enable CRL services keeps me going. It is very rewarding to know the asset will be improved and will need less maintenance in future.

WHAT ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT DOES THE JOB NEED?

An aqua block notebook so the ink doesn't run in the rain and my rucksack with my water and food. This keeps me going.

Papakura – Pukekohe Electrification and Southern Stations

KiwiRail project teams are busy working to make it easier for people living and working in southern Auckland. These two projects, funded through the Government’s NZ Upgrade Programme (NZUP), will also lead to a reduction in New Zealand’s carbon emissions.



Papakura to Pukekohe Electrification

Next year redevelopment of Pukekohe Station gets underway, and right now teams are preparing for the installation of the overhead masts, due to start in 2023, by piling alongside the tracks.

Seeking feedback on stations

Keep an eye on our website for the Drury Central and Paerata Railway Stations designs and drop-in sessions, to talk with us about the stations and electrification project. At this stage we want feedback on road access and Park& Rides.

Increasing Auckland’s tree canopy

KiwiRail is planting thousands of natives, with more planting planned for later this year. Sustainability Manager Michelle Main says we are choosing areas of the city with the lowest tree cover.

“Planting initiatives in Wiri and Papatoetoe will help mitigate some of our carbon emissions and importantly contribute to providing more tree cover supporting healthier local communities.”

“KiwiRail has a goal of being net zero carbon by 2050 and we are committed to improving the environment as we upgrade Auckland’s rail network.”

Te Whangai Trust, a community-led social enterprise, did the planting at Onslow Ave in Wiri and will help with future plantings. The site contains the Puhinui Awa, which is important to Mana Whenua who blessed planting site.

“There are many benefits to this initiative”, Michelle says. “It also helps the general health of the soil and



Puhinui Stream.” By engaging Te Whangai Trust, we are supporting their efforts for rangatahi to learn about New Zealand’s native plants and reconnect with their land, thereby bringing a sense of belonging for future generations.”

The planting in Auckland Council parks is being done with the support of Otago-Papatoetoe Local Board (Kohuora Park)

and Mangere-Otahuhu Local Board (Walter Massey Park – planting will happen soon).

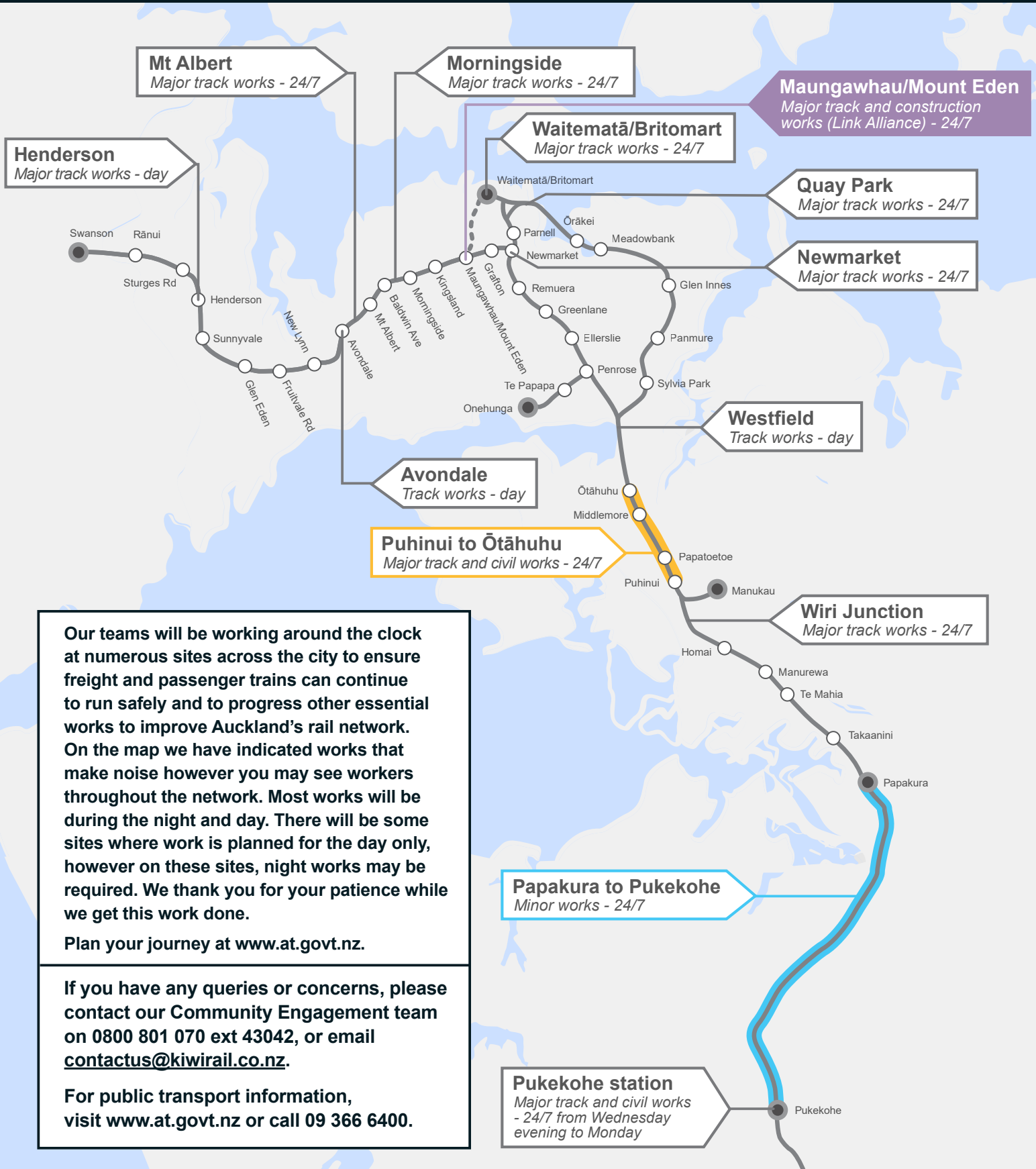
These areas neighbour KiwiRail’s works to build a third main line between Wiri and Westfield, which will improve passenger train frequency and freight capacity.

For any queries, email us at contactus@KiwiRail.co.nz



KiwiRail Labour Day weekend works

22 - 24 October



Our teams will be working around the clock at numerous sites across the city to ensure freight and passenger trains can continue to run safely and to progress other essential works to improve Auckland's rail network. On the map we have indicated works that make noise however you may see workers throughout the network. Most works will be during the night and day. There will be some sites where work is planned for the day only, however on these sites, night works may be required. We thank you for your patience while we get this work done.

Plan your journey at www.at.govt.nz.

If you have any queries or concerns, please contact our Community Engagement team on 0800 801 070 ext 43042, or email contactus@kiwirail.co.nz.

For public transport information, visit www.at.govt.nz or call 09 366 6400.