



Sign up for work updates

Send your details to contactus@kiwirail.co.nz

Auckland's Metro Programme Newsletter

March 2024

Auckland's Rail Network Rebuild Update

Auckland's Rail Network Rebuild began in January 2023, and the work is already giving customers a smoother ride. Crucial to allowing more frequent trains when the City Rail Link opens, teams have completed work on the Eastern Line, parts of the Southern Line and are now focusing on the Western Line between Newmarket and New Lynn.

Teams are continuing to progressively raise the standard of the existing rail network. This involves steadily replacing aging track foundations and upgrading track drainage, as well as replacing worn rail, sleepers and ballast (the rocks the tracks sit on).

To minimise disruption to commuters and neighbours we are progressing as quickly as possible. We have been working on the Western Line since Labour Weekend, mainly at night, over weekends and at times 24/7. We made excellent progress with the foundation replacement work over the full network-wide Christmas closure before the line reopened on 20 January.

Over the last month we've been improving drainage on the Southern Line between Puhinui and Papakura – with almost 1,700m upgraded to date.

From 10 March until May we will be back working on the Western Line continuing drainage, track and ballast improvement work.

To minimise the impact on customers, we will work on one set of tracks at a time. Western Line trains will continue running on the second set of tracks (single line running), but there will be a revised timetable. For more information visit: www.AT.govt.nz/JourneyPlanner or use the AT Mobile app.

A reminder that when crossing the tracks at level crossings, always expect trains in either direction and check both ways are clear.

To find out more about this work visit kiwirail.co.nz/aktrailrebuild

Teams will also be busy over ANZAC and King's Birthday weekend, so please sign up for email notifications about future works by emailing contactus@kiwirail.co.nz



Progress since last year:

1,089 metres of formation (the rock foundation below the track) was excavated and replaced

3,394 metres of drainage was improved

958 metres of rail was replaced

Around 130 KiwiRail staff and contractors are working on RNR Stage 3.



These pictures show old ballast and formation being excavated, and new drainage (subsoil pipes) being laid on the Western Line over Christmas

Papakura to Pukekohe electrification update

The project is on track for completion in the first half of this year. Once complete, passengers travelling from Pukekohe will no longer need to switch trains at Papakura and will enjoy faster, quieter and cleaner journeys in modern electric trains.

Along this 19km section of the Southern Line, we have made significant improvements to the track, upgraded six public level crossings, installed all the masts and bridges that support the overhead electric lines and installed approximately 94 per cent of the overhead electric lines.

If you live in the area, you may have already seen some of the changes to Pukekohe Station. So far, the team have completed the track works, built two new sets of stairs, installed a new lift shaft and the platform canopies. We're now working on asphaltting the platforms and installing the tactile pavers, the stair canopies, the staff facilities building and the external cladding of the platform building.

Always expect trains from both directions at any time.



Works in Pukekohe



Lift shaft scaffolding removed



Canopy installation



Stay Safe, Stay Away

There are many benefits to electrification of the track, but overhead electric lines carry 25,000 volts of electricity - this is 100 times more powerful than the electricity in your home.

Electricity can arc (jump) across gaps or pass through objects and water. If you come too close, or touch these lines, it will cause serious injury or death. Never try to touch the lines, throw anything at them or dangle items from bridges above them.

If you have children, make them aware of the dangers. Never play with kites, balloons or other high reaching items near overhead lines.

A height restriction of 5 metres is now in place at all level crossings and is clearly signposted. Motorists in vehicles or towing loads that exceed these restrictions should choose an alternative route or contact us on 04 474 2323 for advice.

Drury Rail Stations update

Over the next 30 years, an additional 130,000 people are expected to call South Auckland home. In preparation for future growth, we're building three new train stations located at Drury Central, Drury West and Paerātā.

Combined with the Papakura to Pukekohe electrification project, the new stations will make travelling by train more accessible and appealing to those living in the area.

Ahead of main construction, we've completed early earthworks at Paerātā Railway Station and installed 279 concrete piles, approximately 12 meters deep, to form the foundations of Drury Railway Station. The main construction contract is expected to go out to tender in April, with physical works to follow later in the year.

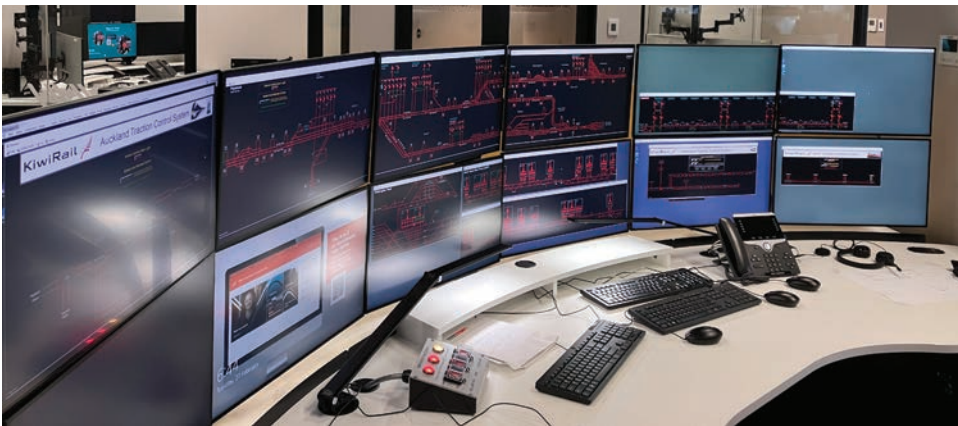
Ngākōroa Railway Station was delayed by a judicial review. The review has been dismissed and design and planning approvals are in progress. Subject to obtaining planning approvals, construction is expected to start in late 2024.

KiwiRail and NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi are working together to coordinate and deliver the construction of Paerātā Railway Station and the SH22 Paerātā Roundabout, minimising the disruption to the road network. Construction of the roundabout is due to begin mid-2024 and is expected to take a year to build. The new single lane roundabout on SH22 will ensure safe traffic flow in and out of Paerātā Station, SH22, and new housing developments.



Auckland train control

We have welcomed the brand-new Auckland Rail Operations Centre, which was officially opened on March 14 by the Minister of Transport. This new building combines teams from KiwiRail, Auckland Transport and train operators Auckland One Rail in a single control room. This collaborative approach is crucial for running more frequent commuter services once the City Rail Link is completed. Right now, it will help us more effectively manage disruptions and reduce the impact on commuters. The centre also provides national back-up resilience for the Wellington Rail Operations Centre that opened last May. The new building is constructed to high resilience standards including twin generators, duplicated communications links and fire separation between rooms and floors.



Middlemore update

Middlemore Station and its immediate surrounds on its western side are being upgraded to allow for a new third rail line as part of the Wiri to Quay Park/ Third Main Line project. This will make Middlemore Station more accessible and convenient for all users, while the new rail line will allow for freight and passenger rail to be separated at the busiest part of the network, helping to enable faster, more frequent trains and improve rail links to key freight hubs. Middlemore Station remains open, and the train timetable is unaffected by this work, pedestrians can still access the station from both sides and signage across the station is posted to guide public on the pedestrian walkway changes.

Construction is progressing well and so far, we have completed all the formation works (ground improvement) and drainage for the new third main north of Middlemore Station. Also completed are the piling works along the station's western side, with the installation of the last four remaining piles along the eastern side now underway. To ensure enough safe space is maintained between the travelling public and our heavy machinery, the current piling works do result in Hospital Road being temporarily reduced to one lane under 'stop-go' operations during weekdays until late March – we thank those impacted for their patience and cooperation.



Artist impression of Middlemore Station

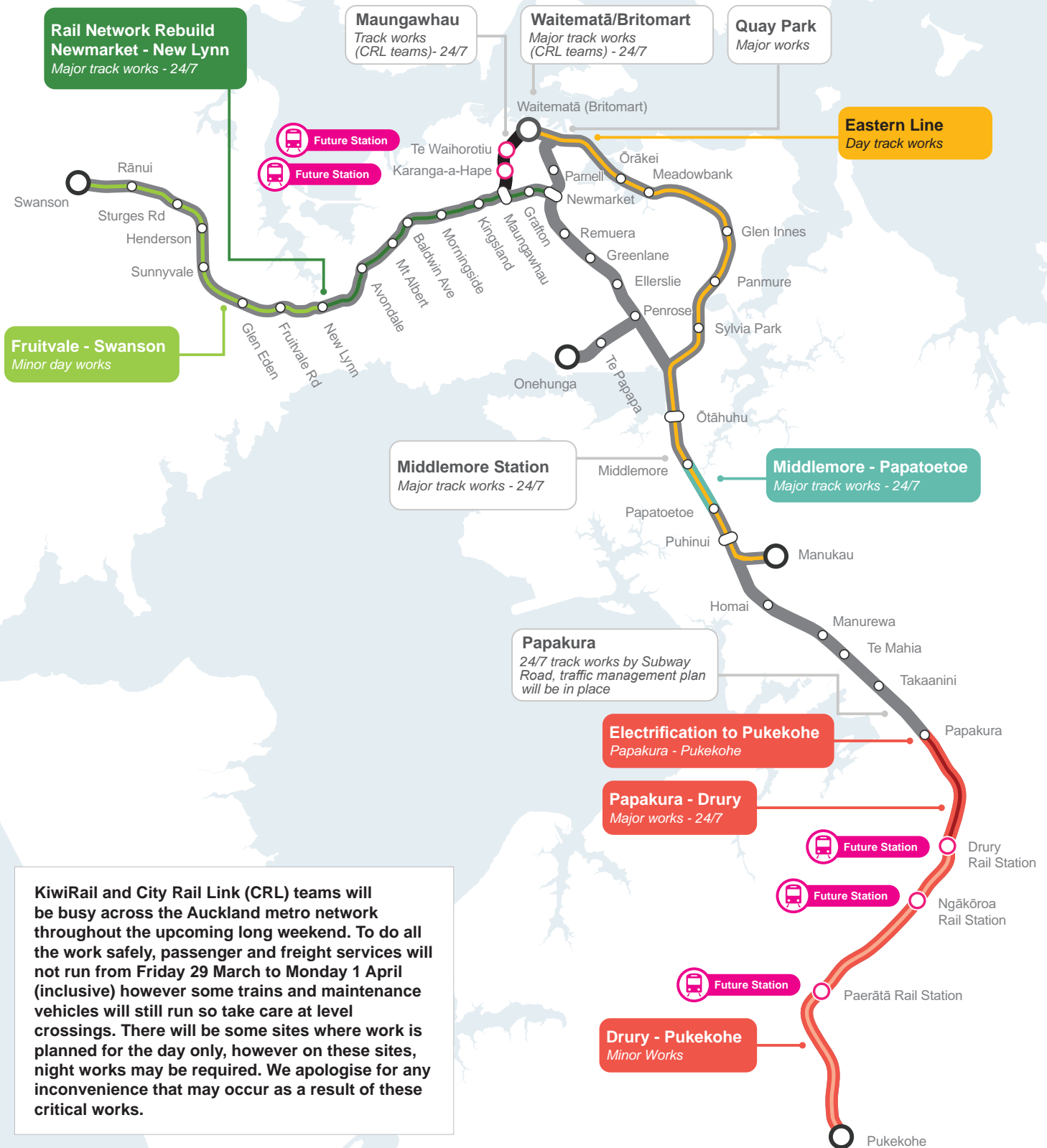


Works underway at Middlemore Station



Auckland KiwiRail Easter Weekend works

29 March – 1 April 2024



KiwiRail and City Rail Link (CRL) teams will be busy across the Auckland metro network throughout the upcoming long weekend. To do all the work safely, passenger and freight services will not run from Friday 29 March to Monday 1 April (inclusive) however some trains and maintenance vehicles will still run so take care at level crossings. There will be some sites where work is planned for the day only, however on these sites, night works may be required. We apologise for any inconvenience that may occur as a result of these critical works.

If you have queries please contact our Community Engagement team on 0800 801 070 ext 43042 or by email at contactus@kiwirail.co.nz. For public transport information, visit www.at.govt.nz or call 09 366 6400.

www.kiwirail.co.nz

