

Roading improvements ramp up

Northland's three district council roading teams are gearing up for a major resurfacing and road repair programme in the hope wet weather will ease.

Spring and summer are traditionally when activity ramps up for roading improvements and road renewal programmes.

Roading crews hampered by ongoing wet weather have focused on temporary repairs to get Northland motorists through winter, while finalising plans to launch a full resurfacing programme from now. Those more permanent repairs will continue during spring, summer and autumn.

While the extremely wet summer of 2022/2023 only allowed crews five clear weeks of road construction, Northland Transportation Alliance (NTA) General Manager Calvin Thomas is hoping for a break in the weather, particularly from this month onwards, to allow crews to undertake an uninterrupted stretch of critical work across Northland's council roading networks.

"Northland's three district councils are planning to deliver a combined \$200 million investment in repairs, maintenance and improvements to our local roading and transport networks over the next 12 months. So, from September and throughout summer, it will be a very busy time on our roads as we play catch up."

Mr Thomas says following Cyclone Gabrielle, crews have completed approximately \$25 million of



Ventia Project Manager Sean Blignault checks in on one of the many roading repair and improvement jobs underway in Northland.

emergency repair works out of the estimated \$89m across the Far North, Whangārei and Kaipara District Council networks. These initial repairs focus on the less complex sites, with planning underway to initiate repairs on larger sites.

Work continues on slip repairs, but with more than 100 significant slip sites remaining across the region, some repairs may take several years to complete.

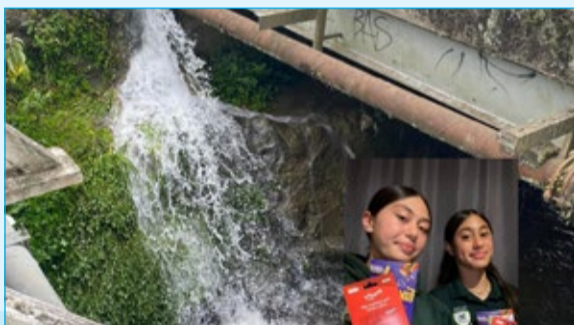
Mr Thomas says summer is also the time to properly fix areas under stress, usually indicated by potholes,

because it can be done most effectively when the ground is dry.

"On average, we are identifying and attending to more than 8500 potholes per month, but again we ask ratepayers to phone their local council and report any urgent potholes or roading damage."

Unsealed and sealed road rehabilitation work is planned across the Far North. This includes bridge renewals and construction of new footpaths. Go to our website to find out more.

Pipe up to report a water leak



Alert students who reported a major water leak were rewarded with a prezzy card and chocolates for helping their community.

Two sharp-eyed students are getting a special plug from the Far North Waters Alliance for reporting a significant leak in Kaikohe's water main pipeline.

Ōkaihau College students Aurora and Azalea spotted the leak as litres of water per second gushed from the pipe earlier this month. The main runs alongside a road bridge but is not visible to motorists or pedestrians on the opposite side of the bridge.

The pair immediately reported it to the council and included detailed photos of the breach, which helped maintenance teams respond quickly. Multiple streets were without water for several hours while the leak was repaired, but the students' swift action prevented much wider disruption to the town's water supply.

Far North Waters Alliance, the council's Three Waters alliance partner, urges anyone who spots a leak to follow the students' example and report it

immediately. Leaks not only waste a valuable resource but can lead to higher bills and damage infrastructure. Reporting a leak is easy, call 0800 920 029.

Walkway on track for Pukenui



The walkway will link Houhora Heads campground to Pukenui.

Work is underway on a new gravel walkway from State Highway 1 just south of Pukenui, along Houhora Heads Road to the campground.

The 2km walkway will create a safe space for walkers and cyclists away from traffic.

The project is the first stage of a bigger plan to link up parts of Pukenui so the campground at Houhora Heads will be connected to the town via walkways as well as the road.

Once it opens, around 50 to 100 people are expected to use the walkway daily, with that number likely to grow during the summer months.

To see a video of the track route and learn more about the project, go to our website.

TIF totals \$5m in Far North

A range of projects that support tourism in the Far North have benefited from a \$805,000 funding boost, part of the seventh round of the government's Tourism Infrastructure Fund (TIF).

This round of TIF allocations brings the total awarded to Far North over all seven funding rounds to \$5.2 million. The total value of these projects is approximately \$10.4m, of which the council has contributed an estimated \$4.6m.

Round seven of TIF will provide the council with:

- \$310,000 for remedial works to Taipā beachfront
- \$240,000 to upgrade Russell boat ramp carparks
- \$140,000 to install public wi-fi and smart lighting/CCTV (linked to the Nothing but Net project)
- \$65,000 to install a toilet facility at Rangitoto Windsor Landing boat ramp
- \$50,000 to install 10 smart bins in high-use locations.



TIF is particularly important for communities in provincial areas where building and maintaining tourism infrastructure can put pressure on stretched council finances. Find out more on our website.

Hōreke will benefit from the latest round of TIF funding.