

## **Proactive Release**

This document is proactively released by Te Manatū Waka the Ministry of Transport.

Some information has been withheld on the basis that it would not, if requested under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), be released. Where that is the case, the relevant section of the OIA has been noted and no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Listed below are the most commonly used grounds from the OIA.

Section	Description of ground
6(a)	as release would be likely to prejudice the security or defence of New
0(4)	Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand Government
6(b)	as release would be likely to prejudice the entrusting of information to the
0(0)	Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by
	(i) the Government of any other country or any agency of such a
	Government; or
	(ii) any international organisation
6(c)	prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation,
0(0)	and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial
9(2)(a)	to protect the privacy of natural persons
9(2)(a) 9(2)(b)(ii)	to protect information where the making available of the information would be
9(2)(0)(1)	likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who
	supplied or who is the subject of the information
9(2)(ba)(i)	to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which
9(Z)(Da)(I)	any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of
	any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely
	to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same
	source, and it is in the public
9(2)(ba)(ii)	to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which
9(Z)(Da)(II)	
	any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of
	any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely
0(2)(f)(ii)	otherwise to damage the public interest
9(2)(f)(ii)	to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect
O(2)(f)(i,j)	collective and individual ministerial responsibility
9(2)(f)(iv)	to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect
$O(2)(\pi)(i)$	the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials
9(2)(g)(i)	to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank
	expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or
	members of an organisation or officers and employees of any public service
0(2)(b)	agency or organisation in the course of their duty
9(2)(h)	to maintain legal professional privilege
9(2)(i)	to enable a Minister of the Crown or any public service agency or
	organisation holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or
0(0)(i)	disadvantage, commercial activities
9(2)(j)	to enable a Minister of the Crown or any public service agency or
	organisation holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or
	disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)



Te ripoata o te wiki mō te Minita o fe Manatū Waka | Weekly Report to the Minister of Transport For the week ending 29 September 2023

SENSITIVE

Weekly Report to Minister - week ending 29 September 2023 i

1 ACTIONS FROM TRANSPORT OFFICIALS' MEETING

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	Transport Crown entity and state-owned entity (SOE) updates

1 ACTIONS FROM TRANSPORT OFFICIALS' MEETING

## 1 Actions from transport officials' meeting

Meeting with Te Manatū Waka Ministry of Transport (the Ministry) and Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency (Waka Kotahi)	Due date
None this week.	~
and Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency (Waka Kotahi) None this week.	AMSPOR
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## 2 Upcoming briefings

Briefings to Minister Parker	Due date
Proactive Release of information relating to the Land Transport (Road Safety) Amendment Bill 2023 Responsibility: Megan Moffet, Manager, Regulatory Policy	Week ending 6 October 2023.
Official Information Act Request from on the proposed amounts for Rail level crossing removal in Auckland in the draft GPS	Week ending 6 October 2023.
Responsibility: Tim Herbert, Manager, Investment	Si
Land Transport Rule - Vehicle Exhaust Emissions Amendment 2023 (Euro 6/VI)	Week ending 6 October 2023.
This briefing will attach for your signature the Land Transport Rule – Vehicle Exhaust Emissions Amendment 2023. This Rule will phase in the Euro 6/VI noxious vehicle exhaust emissions standards over 2024– 2028.	0 000000 2020.
Responsibility: Nick Paterson, Manager Environment, Emissions Policy Design	
New Zealand – Solomon Islands: Outcome of Air Services	TBC
Negotiations Responsibility: Tom Forster, Manager, Economic Regulation	December 2023.

Briefings to Minister O'Connor	Due date
Proactive Release of information relating to the Land Transport (Road Safety) Amendment Bill 2023 Responsibility: Megan Moffet, Manager, Regulatory Policy	Week ending 6 October 2023.
Appointment of Delivery Agency and next steps for the Chatham Islands Vessel Replacement project Responsibility: Richard Cross, Acting Manager, Programme Assurance and Commercial	Week ending 27 October 2023.

Note: the briefing 'Appointment of Delivery Agency and next steps for the Chatham Islands Vessel Replacement project' is on hold and has not been sent to the Minister.

## 3 Key priorities

#### Minister Parker [SENSITIVE] City Rail Link Targeted Hardship Fund update City Rail Link Limited (CRLL) has advised Sponsor representatives of its Next steps: intention to negotiate special Targeted Hardship Fund (THF) FYI only. arrangements for one of the businesses experiencing severe disruption from City Rail Link construction activity. CRLL manage the THF on behalf of Sponsors, with ex gratia paymentsmade within a set of agreed guidelines. CRLL engaged Grant Thornton to provide the business in question financial assistance and advice. As part of that work Grant Thornton has approached CRLL with a proposal to advance a payment equivalent to of THF support to allow the business to achieve positive cashflow and make repayments. towards some of its creditors. CRL works in the area are expected to be completed in approximately one year. The payment would be full and final for the s 9(2)(i) period and would be strictly confidential. Sponsor representatives are satisfied that the payment can be made by CRLL at its discretion without Sponsor approval under the Sponsors'

guidelines, which state the THF should target businesses where there is evidence of major and sustained disruption, financial hardship, and a reasonable case for financial assistance being required. Responsibility: Richard Cross, Acting Manager, Programme Assurance and Commercial

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#### **3 KEY PRIORITIES**

#### Ministers Parker and O'Connor

#### **Cyclone Recovery**

Policy function (excluding legislation) and Investment function s 9(2)(f)(iv)

#### Next steps:

The Cabinet Legislation Committee papers for the two Orders in Council for Waka Kotahi and e Recover re Recover Recover Recover Recover Recover Recover KiwiRail works will be considered by Cabinet Business Committee on 2 October 2023 as per the Tranche 6 timeframes.

Responsibility: Nick Paterson, Manager, Cyclone Recovery

#### **3 KEY PRIORITIES**

#### Year to date road fatalities

As at 27 Sep 2023 provisional road fatalities are 252 for the year, this is 9 fewer fatalities than the same date in 2022. A year-to-date comparison is shown in the table below:



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#### **3 KEY PRIORITIES**

#### Year to date road fatalities

The chart below provides a comparison of fatalities by mode and region for the last five years. The map show fatalities for 2023 by mode and location, highlighting fatalities from the last seven days with larger circles.



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#### **3 KEY PRIORITIES**



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#### **3 KEY PRIORITIES**



#### **3 KEY PRIORITIES**



#### 4 CABINET PAPERS

## 4 Cabinet papers

Minister Parker		
Paper	Committee	Status
Outcome of the consultation on moving to the Euro 6/VI vehicle noxious emissions standards This paper proposes to amend the Land Transport Rule: Vehicle Exhaust Emissions 2007 following public consultation on a draft Rule. It also seeks Cabinet agreement to the amendment Rule being finalised and published in the New Zealand Gazette prior to the 2023 General Election. <i>Responsibility: Nick Paterson, Acting</i>	Cabinet Business Committee (CBC) 2 October 2023.	The paper will be considered by CBC on 2 October 2023
Manager, Environment and Emissions Policy Design	KH OK	
Orders in Council for Waka Kotahi and KiwiRail works The two papers seek agreement to submit the respective OiCs to the Executive Council for approval. The timeline for this paper is consistent with the timeline for Tranche 6 OiCs. Responsibility: Carmen Mak, Director, System and Regulatory Design	Cabinet Business Committee (CBC) 2 October 2023.	The paper will be considered by CBC (acting as Cabinet Legislation Committee) on 2 October 2023.
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Minister O'Connor		



**5 CABINET PAPERS LED BY OTHER AGENCIES** 

#### Cabinet papers led by other agencies 5

None this week,

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6 TRANSPORT CROWN ENTITY AND STATE-OWNED ENTITY (SOE) UPDATES

# 6 Transport Crown entity and state-owned entity (SOE) updates



#### New Board members inducted

On 18 September 2023, Maritime NZ held an online session with our two new Board members, Parke Pittar and Ross Wilson, as part of their induction. The session, opened by the Board Chair, was an opportunity for our new members to meet our Executive Leadership Team and receive an overview of each group's key focus areas.

Our Director/CE provided an overview of our top-of-mind key risks and opportunities.

#### Maritime NZ's Rescue Coordination Centre supports rescue operation off Fiji

On 24 September 2023, after getting in trouble in rough sea conditions around 240 nautical miles south-west of Nadi, Fiji, New Zealand registered yacht **Second Life** activated its distress beacon. The activation was picked up by both Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand (RCC NZ), as the vessel's country of registration, and by the Rescue Coordination Centre Fiji (RCC Fiji), as the vessel was in its search and rescue zone.

Maritime NZ's RCC NZ supported RCC Fiji for the duration of the response. As the **Second Life** was in distress, the closest vessel, a cruise ship called the **Pacific Explorer** was directed to its location. Upon its arrival, one of the three crew was able to climb onto the **Pacific Explorer**, where they received medical attention. Two others, one deceased and another seriously hurt remained on the **Second Life**.

Due to the conditions and the practicalities of moving the more injured survivor up and onto a large cruise ship, helping the last remaining survivor and removing the deceased was not possible from the *Pacific Explorer*. On 25 September 2023, a private vessel called *The Beast* and the Fijian Naval vessel *RFNS Savenca* arrived on scene, the last remaining survivor and the deceased were then transferred onto the Fijian Naval vessel.

RCC Fiji did a very good job in coordinating the response; Maritime NZ's RCC NZ has a close working relationship with its Pacific partners and a coordination like this shows the benefits of ongoing joint-training and information sharing. During the coordination RCC NZ up scaled its operations as well, bringing in extra personnel to support this incident as well as another that occurred off Banks Peninsula. Following the return to Fiji of the deceased, as well as the two survivors, RCC NZ personnel continued to work as a link between the response coordination, liaison of impacted parties and MFAT (consular support) in Fiji.

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6 TRANSPORT CROWN ENTITY AND STATE-OWNED ENTITY (SOE) UPDATES



#### Fishing vessel grounded at Banks Peninsula

Maritime NZ has started an investigation following the grounding of a fishing vessel, the *FV AUSTRO CARINA*, at Shell Bay Banks Peninsula. The 25m fishing vessel activated its beacon at 9.38 PM on 24 September 2023, Maritime NZ's Rescue Coordination Centre coordinated a response by getting a mayday call relayed and tasking an EMS helicopter.

The four crew managed to get to shore and were later picked up by the EMS helicopter via a winch. At the time of the grounding the vessel was carrying 10,000 litres of diesel, 400 litres of oil, and four tonne of fish in a net that is currently wrapped around the propeller.

Environment Canterbury (ECan) is leading the clean-up response, as the spill has been classified as a Tier 2, so is being managed locally. ECan has set up an Incident Management Team to manage the response. Feedback from ECan is that the vessel is not salvageable and will probably break up. Plans are in place to assess it, however, due to weather this may not occur until 29 September 2023. Wreck removal is being discussed with insurers.

Due to the location of the grounding, there is a risk to wildlife as it occurred in a highly sensitive area, and penguins (yellow eyed and little blue) are currently breeding. There will continue to be media coverage on the grounding; the majority of the requests will be managed by Environment Canterbury as the reporters will be asking about the clean-up response. Following comments from the Chair at Te Rūnaka o Koukourarata, Mananui Ramsden about concerns of where the vessel was fishing when it grounded, Maritime NZ personnel from Christchurch met with Mr Ramsden to talk over concerns he may have around fishing vessels in the area.

#### Seafarers Welfare Board Funding Model

On 25 September 2023, Maritime NZ DCE Sharyn Forsyth (along with senior members of the Maritime NZ Team) hosted an online meeting with key stakeholders in the Seafarers Welfare Board (SWB) to discuss the outcomes of the recent public consultation in regards to the funding model for the SWB.

#### 6 TRANSPORT CROWN ENTITY AND STATE-OWNED ENTITY (SOE) UPDATES

Thirty-five stakeholders attended from across the sector, including government, welfare providers, unions and volunteer supporters.

The public consultation closed on 16 August 2023. We received 60 submissions. Feedback was considered by Maritime NZ governance. The outcome was to endorse Option 3 – Grant Model, which 86% of submissions had agreed on.

#### KiwiRail and Kaiarahi update

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#### World Maritime Day 2023

28 September 2023 was the annual World Maritime Day, and Maritime NZ held several activities to mark the occasion based on the International Maritime Organization's theme this year of: MARPOL at 50 – Our commitment goes on.

MARPOL stands for International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships. The Convention includes regulations aimed at preventing and minimizing pollution from ships – both accidental pollution and that from routine operations – and currently includes six technical Annexes.

Maritime NZ produced some external and internal content to highlight MARPOL's success in reducing pollution from ships across international jurisdictions and the sector's challenges ahead to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050, and in limiting plastic pollution from ships. This included a sponsored content piece in the NZ Herald.

On the evening of the event, Maritime NZ's Board and Executive Leadership Team hosted an event with maritime sector guests at our 1 Grey Street, Wellington, office.

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6 TRANSPORT CROWN ENTITY AND STATE-OWNED ENTITY (SOE) UPDATES

#### Minister's report media update:

Three main issues were highlighted in the media over the last week. There was the press release confirming the decision not to prosecute in relation to the fatal capsizing of the *i-Catcher* in September 2022. The grounding of the FV AUSTRO CARINA off Banks Peninsula and the fatal incident involving the New Zealand registered Second Life south-west of Fiji on 25 September 2023.

Maritime NZ received a range of requests relating to all three stories. It is likely interest in the grounding will continue, as some stories have raised questions around response capability and the risk of groundings in areas around Banks Peninsula.

ed in Ta. monitor me. . monitor me. We also understand that a documentary about the Rena is being screened in Tauranga this weekend to coincide with the 12th anniversary of the incident. We will monitor media coverage of this and related issues, as is our usual practice.

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#### 6 TRANSPORT CROWN ENTITY AND STATE-OWNED ENTITY (SOE) UPDATES





#### Key updates

#### **Report by Mike Heron KC published**

As mentioned in the Report week ending 25 August 2023, in February 2023, the Director of CAA commissioned Mike Heron KC to review CAA's investigation and enforcement functions. The report of the independent review and the Director's response have now been published on our website along with a media statement.

#### Communications and External Engagement 25 September 2023

#### Media plan – week ending 6 October 2023

Nil

#### Media mentions - week ending 29 September 2023

Nil

### Upcoming communications and engagement

Planned release/publish	What	Туре	Why
From mid- September 2023	All stories from Vector Spring issue	Vector Online article(s)	Ongoing education by putting some Vector articles online for anyone to access.
September- November 2023 (multiple dates)	Plane Talking	Face-to-face event	This series of seminars, as part of the Work Together, Stay Apart campaign, serves the aerodrome communities and will be held in aero clubs and flying schools throughout New Zealand. There are 21 dates in total.

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#### 6 TRANSPORT CROWN ENTITY AND STATE-OWNED ENTITY (SOE) UPDATES

Planned release/publish	What	Туре	Why
September 2023	Plane Talking	GAP video	To educate the aerodrome community about standard radio calls. This video is the first educational product to be released as part of the Work Together, Stay Apart campaign.
July-December 2023 (multiple dates)	Dangerous Goods	Face-to-face event	To provide training and qualification for the carriage of Dangerous Goods.
October 2023	Weight and balance	GAP booklet (update)	Business As Usual (BAU) version update
October 2023	Vector special issue: accidents that have common causes	Aviation industry magazine	To highlight the most common causes of fatal accidents that safety investigators go to.
TBC	In, Out and Around Queenstown	GAP booklet (update)	BAU version update
TBC	In, Out and Around Christchurch	GAP booklet (update)	BAU version update
TBC	In, Out and Around Manawatu	GAP booklet (update)	BAU version update
TBC	Weather Card	Safety education product	BAU version update
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6 TRANSPORT CROWN ENTITY AND STATE-OWNED ENTITY (SOE) UPDATES



A new marine inquiry, M0-2023-206, was opened by the Commission on 25 September 2023

Maritime New Zealand notified the Commission of an incident that occurred at about 21:38 on 24 September 2023, involving the fishing vessel *Austro Carina*. The circumstances reported to date are that the vessel was carrying out fishing operations close to shore off Red Bay, Banks Peninsula when it ran aground, requiring all four crewmembers to be winched to safety by a rescue helicopter.

The Commissioner has opened an inquiry under Section 13(1) of the TAIC Act and appointed Avinash Figueiredo as Investigator in Charge. Avinash will be supported by Jeremy Dann.

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6 TRANSPORT CROWN ENTITY AND STATE-OWNED ENTITY (SOE) UPDATES



**NETWORK** s 9(2)(f)(iv)



Bridge 189 on Main North Line

As you have been advised, on 15 September 2023, following supplementary inspections on Bridge 189 between Picton and Blenheim, increased decay affecting the integrity of the bridge was discovered.

As a safety precaution, KiwiRail closed the rail line between Picton and Blenheim impacting freight services and the return of the Coastal Pacific, which was due to resume running on the following 18 September 2023.

The timber bridge was due for replacement next year and its state was being regularly monitored.

The bridge was repaired with the highest risk elements replaced, and the line reopened on 23 September 2023.

KiwiRail has 1400 active bridges and approximately 30% of the bridge stock has timber elements with an average age of 89 years, which are nearing end of life.

#### 6 TRANSPORT CROWN ENTITY AND STATE-OWNED ENTITY (SOE) UPDATES

Following the condition finding on Bridge 189, we have undertaken a risk review of the bridges in the near vicinity (Spring Creek to Picton). We have found no serious issues, but some key structural components need to be inspected under load by the engineer to confirm the robustness of the bridges.

We are planning to undertake additional maintenance to give added assurance while we await total bridge replacements from RNIP funding.

#### Auckland Rail Network Rebuild

Track foundation, drainage and track upgrades on the Eastern Line between Otahuhu and Britomart (Stage 2) are progressing well, once work fully resumed after the FIFA Women's World Cup in mid-August 2023.

Stage 2 progress since it started on 20 March 2023 to 10 September 2023:

- 3,877 metres of formation (the compacted rock foundation below the track) has been excavated and replaced
- 5,960 metres of ballast (the larger rocks the tracks sit in) has been replaced
- 6,091 metres of drainage has been improved
- 554 metres of rail has been replaced.

Teams are continuing foundation replacements with a focus around rail yards and starting on-track works along the length of the Eastern Line. Stage 2 remains on schedule to be completed in January 2024.

KiwiRail is working with Auckland Transport on the announcement of Stage 3 of the Rail Network Rebuild, which will include work on parts of the Western Line and Southern Line.

It will start on Labour Weekend and continue into June 2024. Unlike previous stages it will not use full, prolonged line closures – so will avoid major disruption to commuters. Ministers' will be sent detail on Stage 3 and the communications approach before the stage is publicly announced on 9 October 2023.

#### Auckland Rail Programme Business Case

Following engagement with Auckland Local Boards about our strategic Rail Programme (Auckland Rail Programme Business Case), KiwiRail held a proactive media briefing on 19 September 2023 with Peter Reidy, other senior KiwiRail executives and Auckland Transport representatives to provide messaging around the importance of future planning, and what the network needs to meet longer-term future demand.

This has resulted in several positive news stories around the status of rail in Auckland and has led to a noticeable shift in positive media sentiment.

We have also completed filming with NZ Herald journalists to produce a Focus video piece on our Southern rail projects and how they are meeting growth in the area.

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6 TRANSPORT CROWN ENTITY AND STATE-OWNED ENTITY (SOE) UPDATES

#### INTERISLANDER

#### Weather disruptions

Weather conditions in the Cook Strait are causing short-term disruptions with significant swells requiring the cancelation of services.

*Kaitaki* sailings on 26 September 2023 were cancelled, with an expected return to service for her of 8:30pm on 27 September 2023. *Aratere* sailings were also cancelled until her 3.34pm sailing on 27 September 2023.

Further weather-related cancellations are expected through to the week starting 2 October 2023. This is a changeable situation, and we are closely monitoring the forecast and conditions. Some departure times may also vary from those scheduled as we work through ongoing impacts of the weather disruption.

All those affected are being notified. Customers are being notified of changes and offered alternative sailings.

#### Kaiarahi dry dock

*Kaiarahi* returned from dry dock in Singapore on 15 September 2023. The team has finalised repairs and sea trials and inspections are now complete allowing a return to service once weather conditions allow.

#### Valentine

New owners took possession of *Valentine* on 18 September 2023, and she left Wellington harbour for Greece on 22 September 2023.

The *Valentine* crew have been redeployed onto our other three ships where they will be fully utilised. Having additional crew available from the sale of *Valentine* will support the increased focus on delivering reliability in our core fleet.

#### Performance

As noted above, On Time Refformance and sailings have been affected by weather related service disruptions.

The below shows the trend data for OTP and reliability:



#### 6 TRANSPORT CROWN ENTITY AND STATE-OWNED ENTITY (SOE) UPDATES

The weekly breakdown of the relevant statistics is shown in the table below:

Date range	On Time Performance (15min Tolerance) OTP Target 88%	Reliability (Excl. Weather) Reliability Target 98%	Reliability (Incl. Weather)
28 August 2023 – 3 September 2023	98% <i>Aratere</i> - 96% <i>Kaiarahi</i> - not sailing <i>Kaitaki</i> - 100% <i>Valentine</i> - not sailing	100%	100% 0 sailings cancelled due to weather
4 September 2023 – 10 September 2023	98% <i>Aratere</i> - 96% <i>Kaiarahi</i> - not sailing <i>Kaitaki</i> - 100% <i>Valentine</i> - not sailing		100% 0 sailings cancelled due to weather
11 September 2023 – 17 September 2023	96% Aratere - 96% Kaiarahi - not sailing Kaitaki - 96%	100%	96% 2 sailings cancelled due to weather
18 September 2023 – 24 September 2023	96% Aratere - 100% Kaiarahi - not sailing Kaitaki - 93%	100%	100% 0 sailings cancelled due to weather

#### **IREX UPDATE**

#### Ships

The iReX ships team spent last week with Hyundai Mipo Dockyard finalising the design. The team had a programme to progress pending design matters and follow up from the 3D Engineering model review, including detail design reviews of electrical systems, engineering, and exterior and interior design.

#### Waitohi Picton

Work began on a covered foot passenger walkway between the temporary terminal building and ferries in September 2023. Rental car kiosks have been moved into new locations behind the Edwin Fox Museum.

Work around Auckland Street and Dublin Streets is well underway preparing for the Dublin Street overbridge. Construction partners Downer HEB JV has established a laydown area on Waitohi Domain, and at Westshore for the barge loadout facility.

Given the volume of work across Waitohi Picton, the iReX team meets weekly with Waka Kotahi, Marlborough District Council, Marlborough Roads, Port Marlborough, mana whenua and other stakeholders so communication is clear, issues are proactively managed, and there is shared understanding of inter-agency impacts.

#### Kaiwharawhara Wellington

A temporary Commercial Vehicle (CV) marshalling yard will be established in October 2023, clearing the way for construction partners Downer HEB JV to carry out ground strengthening work (the insertion of stone columns). Geotechnical work around the terminal is already underway testing ground strength, including marine geotechnical work. A barge is expected to start testing later this month through until early November 2023, subject to further contracts being entered.

In late October 2023, and subject to further contracts being entered, construction of a site construction compound and a temporary jetty off Kaiwharawhara Point is scheduled to get underway. The jetty enables materials such as piles to be barged onto the Point and to the main wharf construction site with minimal disruption to Interislander operations.

#### **TE HUIA**

#### Additional Te Huia Services

Waikato Regional Council (WRC) has signalled its intention to run additional return services for Te Huia. These were intended to begin in April 2023, however delays in receiving an approved safety case variation from the regulator (received in August 2023) and low availability of Locomotive Engineers meant KiwiRail indicated additional services would not be possible until June 2024 at the earliest.

After monitoring the Locomotive Engineer training and attrition rates, KiwiRail met with WRC last week to advise we will have appropriate numbers of Locomotive Engineers trained and available to introduce additional services in early 2024.

WRC officials have requested to start the additional services after school holidays, Auckland Anniversary and Waitangi weekend, which leads to a suggested start date of 8 February 2024.

The additional services will be off-peak, initially running on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays to assess customer appetite. These are traditionally stronger days for passenger numbers, and the new services will offer Hamilton-Auckland commuters move travel time flexibility beyond the existing morning and evening peak Te Huia services. Additional departures are scheduled to be:

6 TRANSPORT CROWN ENTITY AND STATE-OWNED ENTITY (SOE) UPDATES

#### Thursday/Friday

Departing Hamilton 0930hrs (after the existing morning peak service)

Departing The Strand 1515hrs (before the existing evening peak service)

#### Saturday

Departing Hamilton 0900hrs (after the existing morning service)

Departing Strand 1500hrs (before the existing evening service)

These times may be adjusted slightly if there are changes to Auckland One Rail timetables between now and the launch of the extra services.

As the service provider, WRC will announce the additional services following their approval in the coming weeks.

#### **UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS**

Nil.

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