



Kaipara te Orangakui
**KAIPARA
DISTRICT**
Two Oceans Two Harbours

32 Hokianga Road,
Private Bag 1001,
Dargaville 0340,
Northland,
New Zealand
P 0800 727 059
E council@kaipara.govt.nz
www.kaipara.govt.nz

29 May 2023

Tēna koe Devich Road resident,

Re: Devich Road bridge

You are receiving this letter as a resident affected by the temporary closure of Devich Road bridge. We apologise for the inconvenience the closure may be causing you. We are working on a solution, but with significant damage it will be some time before construction to repair the bridge can start.

As you know, Devich Road bridge was impacted in the 24 February extreme weather event. Three out of the four retaining walls of the bridge suffered major structural damage, leaving the road at the approaches to the bridge at a high risk of collapse. In its current condition it is extremely unsafe and remains closed to traffic and pedestrians.

Detailed inspections undertaken by our structural engineers have shown that any fix to get the bridge back open will be complex, requiring structural design to prevent damage in the future and to stabilise the area to avoid collapse. We have completed initial investigations and are progressing geotechnical ground investigations to determine which solution can be constructed.

High level cost estimates are anywhere from \$400k – \$5million, with three options at this stage:

- Replace two of the most severely impacted retaining walls and repair the scouring damage;
- Replace the bridge with a new two-lane bridge in the same position, or,
- Realign the road and replace bridge with a higher level new two-lane bridge,

This latter option is the most expensive but significantly improves this section of the network and provides for better longer-term resilience.

The feasibility of any of these long-term options is dependent on the Geotech results. We need to be confident the ground conditions around the bridge are suitable, and that the ground is not shifting and will support infrastructure we repair or build. The geotechnical investigations are occurring in the next 4-6 weeks, when our engineering resources become available from other work they are currently undertaking.

We have a short term solution we hope to use to reopen the bridge while we work on the long-term solution. It may be possible to construct temporary retaining walls using sheet piles supporting the overturned wing walls. These could then be backfilled to stabilise the road approaches to the bridge. This will only be possible if the Geotech investigations show the ground is stable. If this is possible, the best-case timeframe is that the bridge can be temporarily repaired and reopen in 10-12 weeks.

Other short-term options have been considered (such as the use of a Bailey bridge) but are not feasible in this situation, nor likely to receive funding from Waka Kotahi NZTA as Devich Road still has access out either end and alternative routes available for accessing essential services.

We know this process has already taken a significant amount of time. The extent and breadth of the damage inflicted across Northland, as well as the devastation in other parts of the upper North Island (such as Auckland, Hawkes Bay, Coromandel) has put immense pressure on the limited specialist resources required to carry out this type of work. Outcomes we could normally expect to receive within a few weeks are taking much longer. This has added to the timeframes for this work and our recovery from the storm events.

We will update you on the solution and expected timeframes once the Geotech investigations have been completed. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please call us on 0800 727 059.

Ngā mihi,



Anin Nama

Kaipara District Council General Manager Infrastructure Services