



Wairoa In Focus

Your Community, Your Future

Summer heat helps road repairs

Clear summer days are providing perfect conditions for WDC engineering staff and contractors to leap ahead with major roadworks projects around the district.

Mohaka motorists will be well aware of the major work going on in their area, with 10 drop-outs under repair on the Mohaka Township Road. Schick Contractors are constructing reinforced earth walls made up of drainage matting, a plastic reinforcing mesh known as Acegrid and a steel frontage to the earth backfill known as Duramesh. The plastic mesh is placed across the backfill to give it strength and allow it to be compacted at a steeper angle than normal earth would be able to handle. Remaining dropout sites on the road are not being repaired, rather the cliffs opposite them are being excavated back to gain road width and also to provide earth fill material for the other areas.

Other work involves concrete lining of several large Armco culverts situated on the Mangaroa, Putere, Arapata and Ohuka roads. The work involves welding reinforcing mesh along the bottom of the steel culverts and filling them with concrete to provide a scour free layer to replace the rusting steel that has caused by the passage of grit filled water over the years. In the case of the Arapata culvert, concrete was pumped beneath the culvert outlet to fill the scour

hole and plastic geogrid, and matting was laid against the banks to prevent erosion.

Flood repairs have also been carried out on two sections of Awamate Road, including the construction of another gabion basket retaining wall, while sections of Kinikini Road and Mahia East Coast Road underwent significant reconstruction.

Nuhaka River Road will also undergo repair once the design phase is complete. Major roadworks projects such as these have to be done during summertime as there is less risk of being rained out. While this can be inconvenient



Gabion Wall, Awamate Road

for holidaymakers, it's important for the work to be done while the weather is good.

Drivers are advised to adhere to the 30km speed restriction through roadworks to prevent damage to vehicles, as well as to protect the safety of those working on the road.

The summer projects are a part of Council's responsibility to continuously maintain and repair over 860 km of roads throughout the district, not including the State

Highways, which are taken care of by the NZ Transport Agency.

As well as scheduled maintenance, such as resealing and reconstructions, Council must also allow for unexpected damage caused by incidents such as floods or slips.

Damage is assessed on a case by case basis to establish the extent of what needs to be done to bring the road back up to standard.

The first priority is safety. Slips are cleared to restore access, sometimes to single lane only, and barriers are put up around drop-outs to clearly identify danger zones.

The next stage is to assess the extent of the repairs required, ranging from minor work with no need for specialist input, to major projects requiring structural and geotechnical expertise.

If the latter is the case, the process can go on for months as surveys, design and consent paperwork are developed and submitted, followed by a tender process and eventual mobilisation of the chosen contractor.

It is vital to take the time to do the job correctly to avoid problems in the future.

Another reason why the process has to be followed diligently is due to funding.

The government funds anywhere from 65 percent to 95 percent of emergency repair work, provided certain procedures are followed. Any deviance from the regulations puts that funding in jeopardy.

Work that falls out of the government criteria is funded by ratepayers.

The entire district is currently subject to a restricted fire season. This means you must have a permit to light ANY fire. For more information please phone (06) 838 7309.

Canine tiki tour

Rising temperatures have also seen an increase in reports of wandering dogs around the town.

Animal control staff have been kept busy dealing with stray canines who have made a break for freedom.

Team leader Des Jane says it is often the case when families are on holiday. "People are out of routine – they might have visitors or have someone else looking after their dog while on holiday – for various reasons we tend to see more dogs around the streets at this time," he said.

Under Section 20 of the Dog Control Act 1996, owners are responsible for keeping their dog under control at all times. This means controlling dogs on private property within physical limits (fencing, kennels, indoors), or by command and on a lead in all public areas.

"Often we can return the dog and warn the owner, but repeat offenders can face fines of up to \$3000 or an infringement fee of \$300," Mr Jane said.

For more information about the responsibilities of owning a dog, including registration, microchipping and dog care, visit www.wairoadc.govt.nz, or call (06) 838 7309.

Quick Report

Brian Avenue – Urban Rehabilitation Project

The project to improve safety and parking is currently going through the tender process to establish which company will carry out the work.

Mahia Beach Community Wastewater Scheme

Public infrastructure is under construction, while staff are following up with property owners to organise consents and installation of new septic tanks, etc. Anyone who has not responded to their proposal pack, or has not received one, can contact Engineering Manager Jamie Cox on (06) 8387309.

Opoutama Community Wastewater Scheme

The job of installation is currently out for tender, and staff will be talking with the community regarding this over the next few months.

Mahanga Water

A community discussion on improving the condition of Mahanga drinking water is proposed for Easter. Property owners should have already received a letter regarding this.

Wairoa Community Centre and Skatepark

Skatepark redevelopment is currently in the design phase. Once consultation has been carried out, the building can begin. Concept designs have been developed for the new learners' pool, and the Community Centre maintenance/repair programme will begin soon.

Marine Parade Streetscape Upgrade

Work is scheduled to begin in March, including new plantings, a viewing platform near the Lighthouse and playground fencing.

For the diary:

Council Meetings

February 12
March 12
April 9
May 14
June 11
July 9
August 13
September 10
October 8
November 12
December 10

Forum

February 26
March 26
April 9
May 14
June 11
July 9
August 13
September 10
October 8
November 12
December 10

Maori Standing Committee

February 22*
March 22
April 26*
May 31
June 28*
July 26
August 30*
September 27
October 25*
November 29

*Meeting held on a marae

Meetings and Forums are held at the Queen Street office council chambers, and are open to the public unless otherwise specified.

For more information phone 838 7309 or visit www.wairoadc.govt.nz