
Stafford Drive update

2 messages

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To: TACA Chair <chair@tasmancommunity.org.nz>, MDCA <info@ourmapua.org>

Mon, Mar 13, 2023 at 2:08 PM

Hi team

I'm overdue to give you an update on Stafford Drive slips traffic management

Crews are continuing to monitor the Stafford Drive slip zone in Ruby Bay for ongoing minor slips and attrition. Loose, small rocks are continuing to fall due to surface erosion but not as often or in the same the quantity as when the major slips occurred and the cliff faces were initially exposed to the elements. Somewhat unfortunately, there has not been many larger or intense rain events to test the stability of the slip face.

Groundwater saturation appears to be less than previously observed, which greatly reduces the likelihood of more significant (and sudden) slope failures occurring. An assessment will be carried out by the Geotech specialist to determine if the risk of catastrophic slope failure had reduced to such a point that the full reopening of Stafford Drive to 2 lanes is possible.

The Geotech is currently extremely busy assessing damage caused by Cyclone Gabrielle in the Gisborne area, but will be available to carry out the assessment in the week commencing 27 March.

Even if the go ahead is given to fully reopen the road it is highly likely ongoing restrictions and possibly closures will continue to occur, particularly during periods of heavy or extended rainfall, as a safety precaution.

In the interim we have looked at whether it is possible to reduce the length of the single lane traffic light section or replace the lights with priority give way signs, but this is problematic as we do not want vehicles queuing in potentially slip prone areas, and we cannot set up a single-lane priority give way (such as at one-lane bridges) as the site far exceeds the maximum allowable length for this type of setup (100m).

Best regards

Jamie

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Mon, Mar 13, 2023 at 2:51 PM

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