



Belfast to Pegasus Motorway and Woodend Bypass

Upcoming work – preparing for the new road

As part of early works for the Belfast to Pegasus Motorway and Woodend Bypass, we need to prepare the ground behind Pineacres for the future road.

The motorway route crosses two man-made quarry lakes in this area with depths of up to 8m in some places. We need to partially fill them with enough gravel to form a stable foundation for the new motorway.

The length of motorway to be built through the lakes is 450m long with embankment widths varying between 40m and 75m. It'll take 6-9 months to form the base for the new road.

The contract for the work is being awarded, and site preparation is expected to start in late March. We want to give you an outline of what will be happening ahead of the work starting.

What's happening and why

- About 180,000 cubic metres of gravel needs to be filled into the lakes to create a stable base for the new road.
- The gravel will come from both the Waimakariri River and the Ashley River / Rakahuri.
- Doing this now as part of the early works allows the gravel fill to settle properly, ensuring the main construction works can start efficiently later.

How the work will be done

Up to 150 truckloads of gravel will be delivered each day and tipped into the lakes, gradually building up the new road.

Access to the site will be from Williams Street near Pineacres, as shown in the map. We're working through the finer details of the works, and will provide you with another update once the contractor has confirmed how they will manage potential effects such as noise, dust, and traffic movements in and out of the site.

Before the trucks start bringing the gravel in, we'll need to prepare the site. This will include:

- Removing some trees along the southern lake boundary to create an access road within the site
- Removing a run-down, unstable shed
- Canterbury Grass Skinks will be carefully relocated from our work areas to protect this native species during construction activities
- Installing a weighbridge for truck monitoring
- Creating an access and haul road within the site.

What to expect

- Increased truck activity in the area
- Temporary traffic management
- Some noise and dust from truck tipping operations.

Water carts will be used to reduce dust on the site and traffic management including reduced speed limits will likely be in place to ensure access in/out and around the site is safe. We'll provide more details once they are confirmed.

Looking ahead - once the lakes are filled

- To prepare the area for the new motorway, we need to improve the strength of the ground in places where the old quarry lakes have been filled with gravel.
- One of the methods we use is called dynamic compaction, a proven engineering method for strengthening the large areas of gravel we'll be placing into the quarry lakes. A heavy weight is repeatedly dropped on the ground to make the shingle more stable. This helps ensure the new road has a strong, reliable foundation, especially in earthquake prone areas like Canterbury.
- This is much quicker than other ground-improvement methods, which can take significantly longer to achieve the same level of ground strength.
- The compaction won't be done until the main construction starts. We're waiting for funding approval for this phase and, once confirmed, we'll plan the work and share details about timing and the steps that will be taken to manage impacts.
- This method will cause some noise and vibration, but using this method now helps avoid bigger disruptions and maintenance issues in the future.
- We understand these works may cause inconvenience. We're committed to keeping you informed as the work progresses and will do everything we reasonably can to reduce impacts on local residents and the community.
- Noise, dust and vibration levels will be managed under our resource consent conditions. We'll be monitoring the work to make sure we stay within approved limits.
- We'll be back in touch again soon once the details, including timing and what to expect on the roads, are ready to share.



For more information

For more information about the project and to subscribe to newsletter updates visit nzta.govt.nz/b2p

To contact the project team email b2p@nzta.govt.nz