

FAQs

Gorge Road Closure: 12 May – 6 June 2025

Location

The west bound lane on Gorge Road from 4 Gorge Road to Weaver Street (approx. 27m).

When

Monday 12 May – Friday 6 June.

Why

A quality assurance inspection of the wastewater line has identified a dip in the pipe that was installed by the Alliance in August 2023.

1. Why is Gorge Road being dug up?

A section of the wastewater line needs to be dug up to replace the pipe and remove the dip that has been discovered. Leaving the dip in place may cause ongoing maintenance issues as the pipe won't 'self-clean' as well as it should, and this could cause material to build up in the pipe over time.

2. Why was this not done correctly at the time?

As part of the Arterial project, an old section of wastewater pipe that was in poor condition and leaking was replaced with a new pipe. Due to the pipe's location and depth, different methods for replacing the old pipe were considered. Kā Huanui a Tāhuna in consultation with the Council determined that pipe-bursting*, which is trenchless, was the most appropriate option in this situation.

However, when the existing pipe was being burst, a large concrete obstruction was encountered that stopped the pipe-bursting head and the concrete obstruction had to be excavated out to allow the pipe-bursting to continue. Unfortunately, the obstruction seems to have pushed the new pipe off alignment, resulting in a dip in the pipe that needs to be fixed.

* Pipe bursting is a trenchless method for replacing damaged wastewater lines by pushing a new pipe through the old one, fracturing the old pipe in the process. This technique minimises disruption to the surrounding area compared to traditional trenching methods, making it a more cost-effective option in many cases.

3. What needs to be done to remove the dip in the pipe?

- a) Service investigations along a 27m section of wastewater pipe where the dip has occurred.
- b) Pothole along the pipe to survey the levels and, using that data, agree where the dip is located and confirm the actual length of pipe that needs to be replaced (the worst-case scenario would mean relaying the entire 27m section of pipe).
- c) Excavate a trench 3m deep to install the new (150mm pvc) wastewater pipe.
- d) It is anticipated that it will take a maximum of 3 weeks to relay 27m of pipe and reinstate the site (and less than 3 weeks if the repair is found to be less involved).

e) Depending on the scope of the work (determined in step b) above), driveway access, the footpath, kerb and channel may also need to be reinstated. This will be confirmed when the work begins.

4. Over what timeframe is this work expected to take place?

26 days (12 May to 6 June)

5. Who is responsible for fixing this?

In this situation, the risk of unforeseen ground conditions (i.e. the concrete obstruction) is the responsibility of the Alliance and not the sub-contractor. This means the Arterial Project will incur the cost of the remediation work; however, this will be covered within the project's contingency and won't require additional Council funding.

6. And at what cost?

Estimated \$130k including traffic management, subject to the level of works required to reinstate the footpath, kerb, and channel.

7. Why now?

This work will have an impact on motorists, as well as adjacent residents and businesses. Now that the new arterial road is open as well as Stanley Street, it is hoped this will reduce the impact as it provides easier detours. If this work isn't carried out this month, it will have to wait until after the ski season to minimise the disruption to the community.