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Transmission Gully road won't open this year

Transporting New Zealand attended a meeting this morning where Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency advised it was extremely disappointed to say that Transmission Gully will not be open to traffic in time for Christmas.

Wellington Gateway Partnership (WGP) and CPB HEB Joint Venture, the builder contracted to deliver the Transmission Gully project, have run out of time to complete all of the tasks necessary for Transmission Gully to open in time for Christmas.

Unfortunately, Waka Kotahi is unable to give any timeline for completion, including any timelines for completion of individual outstanding tasks. An independent reviewer needs to sign off on the outstanding tasks necessary for the road to open.

We were advised that:

- Out of 100 safety and quality assurance tests that need to be met before the road can safely and legally open, as at 10 December 2021, 41 final test submissions have been received, of which 34 have been accepted by the Independent Reviewer as meeting the required specifications. 59 partial submissions have been made.
- Of the 45 consent tasks that need to be complete in order for the road to open – as at 3 December 2021, 17 have been completed, 26 are underway and have been progressed to varying degrees and two are not yet started. Some of these are well advanced and will be completed soon, however a fully functioning stormwater system, capable of treating road run-off water to the required standard must be operational for road opening.

Transporting New Zealand questioned when the stormwater system would be completed, but Waka Kotahi was unable to give a timeframe on that.

We also asked if there would be work on the road right through the summer, including the “holiday” period. Waka Kotahi was unable to answer that.

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Obviously, everyone wants the road open as soon as possible, but we also want it to be safe and a good driving experience, so we will have to wait a bit longer.

This will put pressure on operators over summer as the coast road out of Wellington is notorious for lengthy delays.

Our advice is to keep an eye on all the latest traffic tracking advice across all the normal channels you use, and plan your trips accordingly.

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