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PROTESTS PREDICTED TO DISRUPT TRAFFIC

Purpose

The purpose of this Advisory is to inform you of predictions of major disruption to traffic tomorrow, Saturday 13 November. We hope this advice helps you plan and mitigate the associated risks.

Predicted disruption

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency has today advised it is aware that protests are planned primarily for Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin. However, information suggests that smaller communities may also see protest action, but numbers of attendees will be relative to the community they live in. The protest is called The Great Gridlock. The intention is to impact the road network. Waka Kotahi is working closely with Police on planning for the event around the country. Unfortunately, there is not a lot that either organisation can do to prevent this type of behaviour and there is also little information coming from the event organisers.

It is anticipated there will be protesters on the Auckland Motorway coming into the city and people will try to target the southern border. Police have response plans to deal with these situations. Waka Kotahi's role is traffic management and customer communications via social media and the use of its electronic messaging systems.

No one knows the extent of the disruption and the protests are expected to start around 1100hrs. To demonstrate the level of uncertainty, at an earlier event 500 people were expected to march to Parliament buildings however, it is estimated 5,000 actually attended.

Recommendations

- Expect delays and if possible, plan around the timing for Saturday this week
- Brief your frontline people about this possibility
- Have a safety management plan in the event any protest becomes unruly
- Build in additional time to journeys that need to be made
- Stay well connected to information that will come via Police and Waka Kotahi on the day.

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