



**13 July
2023**



Community Update

Changes to Cordon Restrictions in Karekare

As mentioned in our [5 July community update to Karekare](#), we have been reviewing the cordon access restrictions into the area. Decisions have been made in consultation with Auckland Council security, Auckland Transport, local police, elected members, and also includes community feedback.

The current cordon restrictions were put in place using emergency powers under the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002 to “restrict or prohibit public access to prevent, limit or reduce the consequences of an emergency.” As safety issues with roading access are nearing resolution and mitigations put in place, the Group Recovery Manager needs to review the cordons, taking into account the public interest for freedom of movement.

We’re pleased to be able to announce that the cordons restricting access into Karekare will be reduced **from 6:00am on Monday 17 July**, opening up the area to non-residents again. The following changes to cordon arrangements will take place at this time:

- **Lone Kauri Road** - the current ‘soft’ cordon (barriers and signage, supplemented by traffic management staff to support roading repair work) and residents only access restrictions will be removed.
- **Karekare Road** – the current ‘hard’ cordon with manned security presence will be reduced to a ‘soft’ cordon consisting of barriers and signage only, with residents only access to remain.

Weight and speed restrictions of 3.5 tonnes and 30km/h are to remain in place on both roads.

Signage will be in place at both Lone Kauri and Karekare Roads that clearly states the weight and speed restrictions. Additionally, the Karekare Road cordon will have signage to clearly state that access is residents only and that parts of the road are reduced to one-lane.

The Recovery Office is not intending to undertake any proactive announcements to the general public or media (other than this community update) regarding the above changes to cordon arrangements in Karekare, but will be responding to media queries if they do occur.

Community feedback

We would like to thank the Karekare community for the patience and resilience shown as we worked towards being able to safely reduce the Karekare cordons. We appreciate the past few months have been a time of great uncertainty, and we have always had safety as the key driver in our decision making.

We would also like to thank those residents who took the time to provide feedback to inform the review of cordon restrictions, as well as the feedback provided by local Police and Fire services. The feedback received from the community was varied, ranging from support for the removal of all cordon and access restrictions through to maintaining all cordon restrictions.

Security

We have also reviewed security arrangements for Karekare in conjunction with the NZ Police. Based on feedback received, we will be extending the roving security patrols currently operating in Piha to include Karekare. This will help provide additional reassurance to the community and particularly those property owners whose properties are unable to be occupied due to their ongoing building placard status.

While we recognise the security concerns raised by some members of the community, our recent experience in reducing cordon restrictions in other west coast communities has shown that visitor numbers are generally below those normally experienced at this time of year. Police have also advised that there has been no significant increase in trespassing or burglaries in these areas following the removal of cordons. Community members are reminded to ensure houses are secure, and call the Police in the first instance to report suspicious behaviour.

Future roading remediation works in Karekare

Fulton Hogan have reached the conclusion of the initial phase of roading remediation works in Karekare. This has included clearance of storm debris, stabilisation of slip sites, repair of road surfaces where required, and drainage works. Thank you to Dylan and the Fulton Hogan team for all their work so far.

Additional phases of remediation work, including long-term stabilisation and remediation of significant slips, will commence in approximately 8-10 weeks' time. Further information on these works will be provided to the Karekare community prior to works recommencing.

Additional road restrictions, including traffic management and road closures, may be required for these works. This will be managed by Auckland Transport through normal road management processes.

With the recent rainfall and current soil saturation in the area, there is the potential for small slips to occur over the coming months. The AT team are ready to respond and clear these slips should they occur.

Timing of decision making process

To address concerns within the Karekare community about the consultation process, below is a high level timeline of the decision making process used by the Recovery Office regarding the above cordon changes.

- Monday 3 July – advice received Auckland Transport regarding conclusion of initial phase of roading remediation works
- Tuesday 4 July – approval from Recovery Office to seek community feedback on review of cordon arrangements
- Wednesday 5 July – Karekare community informed of review of cordon arrangements.
- Wednesday 5 July – Tuesday 11 July – feedback received from community and other key stakeholders
- Tuesday 11 July – draft advice and recommendations prepared
- Wednesday 12 July - advice and recommendations finalised, presented for approval by Group Recovery Manager
- Thursday 13 July – recommendations approved, Karekare community informed of decision



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