

2026 Interislander Maintenance Period

From June to September 2026, Interislander will be operating a temporary one ship timetable while Kaiārahi undergoes wet dock maintenance (Mon 22 June – Monday 13 July) followed by Kaitaki entering dry dock (18 July – Saturday 26 September). You can view the full maintenance schedule [here](#).

This essential maintenance ensures our ferries remain safe and reliable until new ferries arrive in 2029. The work has been scheduled during the winter off-peak period, when freight volumes are typically lower.

Working alongside our customers

The 2026 Interislander planned maintenance schedule means some freight customers may need to adjust operating days, run times, or move non time-critical freight to alternative pathways, including coastal shipping.

KiwiRail has been working closely with freight customers to plan for this and will continue to work directly with customers to confirm bookings, manage allocations, and minimise disruption during the planned maintenance period.

To help domestic freight customers keep freight moving during this period, KiwiRail is offering NZ Connect, a managed coastal shipping service for selected freight types.

NZ Connect provides a simple, end-to-end alternative for moving freight between Auckland and Christchurch, with KiwiRail managing the entire journey. This includes container receipt at Southdown in Auckland, cross town rail transfer to port, coastal shipping, and delivery through to Middleton Yard in Christchurch.

The service also offers preferential rail rates and access for Interislander customers, weekly scheduled sailings and a single point of coordination, booking, and billing through KiwiRail. For more information on NZ Connect please contact a [KiwiRail Key Account Executive](#).

