

Embargoed until 11am

Friday 8 November 2024

Subject: City Rail Link Delivery & Christmas 2024/25 Block of Line details

Kia ora,

Today details about the work programme to deliver Auckland's City Rail Link (CRL) are being announced by the Minister of Transport. We are now able to confirm details about Christmas Block of Line plan for Auckland, Wellington and the South Island. We wanted to speak to you before the news was published in the media. Please note that the content of this email and attachments are embargoed until 11am.

The key things you need to know are:

- CRL works will benefit both Auckland's metro rail network and the rail freight network long term but will cause some periods of disruption for rail freight through 2025/26 starting with line closures December 27 2024 until January 27 2025;
- As part of the CRL project works, and as we have done in other years for CRL and other work, KiwiRail will deliver a road-bridging solution during these periods to ensure all rail freight is able to be moved;
- There will be changes to some service as a result of the road-bridge;
- Where changes to service mean rail is no longer suitable for your freight then, as part of the CRL project, KiwiRail will work with you to agree a tailored solution that meets the needs of your customers / service promise. For additional costs to be claimed in respect of any rail freight, the alternative freight solution must be agreed in advance with KiwiRail.

Details are below and attached. Our teams are set up to work with you from today to get the necessary changes and arrangements in place.

We acknowledge how late in the year this significant news is being delivered and the disruption and work that it will create for the freight distribution market at its busiest time of the year. We have worked as quickly as we have been able since being notified of the CRL project plan and would like to thank the partners, Customers and tenants who have worked hard with us over the past few weeks to get solutions in place. We would also like to thank you in advance for the work ahead of us to manage the impacts of this delivery as smoothly as possible. Enabling you to continue to meet your service promise is our focus. We are announcing this as soon as we have been able.

What is happening and why?

Getting ready for [CRL](#) to open in 2026 requires a complete upgrade of Auckland's rail network, in addition to fitting out new stations, and integrating, testing and commissioning new systems. As part of this Project, KiwiRail is rebuilding aging foundations and renewing old assets that impact the performance and reliability of train services.

This will benefit freight journeys as well as Auckland metro journeys through less unplanned disruption/maintenance and a more reliable, resilient network.

Uncertainty over funding for the latest overdue renewal work and the completion of the [Rail Network Rebuild](#) (which addresses the priority areas for upgrades on the network), has meant the programme has been



'squeezed' and needs to be delivered in a shorter time frame than originally planned. These blocks of work will allow the CRL project team to 'blitz' the network and enable the opening of the CRL on schedule.

Christmas Block of Line 27 December 2024 – 27 January 2025

The first big roll out of this work – the Rail Network Rebuild - will begin in Auckland on the standard Christmas rail block of line but will end later than usual on 27 January 2025. Some of this will be completely wheels-free (no rail services) but for other parts of the delivery programme freight can still travel on parts of the network.

The details of this and other block of lines for the upcoming Christmas period are below.

Auckland and Whangārei:

- 01:00hrs 27 Dec to 23:59hrs 2 January Full Network Shut Whangārei to Pukekohe.
- 00:01hrs 3 January to 23:59hrs 12 January:
 - Mission Bush open
 - Port of Auckland to Southdown shunt route available
 - Access to domestic customer sidings available.
- 00:01hrs 13 January to 00:59hrs 23 January:
 - Route available for Whangārei service.
- 01:00hrs 23 January to 18:00hrs 27 January:
 - AKL Anniversary Weekend, full network shut, only Mission Bush available.

Wellington (3 days):

Block of line at Plimmerton for tunnel works, affecting Palmerston North to Wellington freight

06:00hrs Thursday 26 Dec – 18:00hrs on Thursday 2 Jan:

- All freight services to and from Wellington (northbound and southbound cancelled.)

06.00hrs Thursday 2 Jan – 18:00hrs Sunday 12 Jan:

- Freight will move at night only between 18.00hrs and 06.00hrs.

South Island:

There are no blocks of line scheduled in the South Island over Christmas.

However, there will be no train services Picton – Christchurch in either direction from Tuesday 24 December to Saturday 4 January (as a result of North Island blocks).

Freight Service Solutions for closed portions

To and From Auckland to Whangarei

Road-bridging solution in place. Contact KiwiRail for details.



To and From Wiri (South Auckland Freight Hub) / Port of Auckland

Road-bridge solutions in place. Contact Nexus for details.

To and From Southdown to Port of Auckland (3 day block)

Road-bridging solution in place. Contact KiwiRail for details.

To and From Southdown to Port of Tauranga

Road-bridge solution in place - please see separate communications or contact KiwiRail for details.

Southbound freight in and out of Auckland

For all freight journeys affected by CRL readiness works, you can book, present and collect intermodal freight as you normally do at our Southdown CT site.

KiwiRail will road-bridge southbound / northbound freight to and from our network via Hamilton. Customers will not be able to road-bridge themselves during this period because Hamilton receival points are shared with other customers and KiwiRail needs to manage freight flows and container terminal operations effectively.

There are some transit delays and limited changes to cut-off times as below:

Train	Standard Cutoff	BOL Cutoff	Standard Arrival	BOL Arrival	Delay
221 (WGTM)	17:30 Mon-Fri	17:30 Mon-Fri	8:40	03:40	19hrs
221 (CHCH)	17:30 Mon-Fri	17:30 Mon-Fri	01:30	01:30	24hrs
215 (PNTH)	18:30 Mon-Fri	18:30 Mon-Fri	06:40	06:40	24hrs
217 (CHCH)	20:00 Mon-Fri	20:00 Mon-Fri	05:30	05:30	24hrs
225 (PNTH)	22:00 Mon-Fri	22:00 Mon-Fri	18:30	06:40	12hrs
225 (CHCH)	22:00 Mon-Fri	22:00 Mon-Fri	01:30	01:30	24hrs
243 (PNTH)	12:00 Sat	22:00 Fri	04:30 Sunday	04:30 Sunday	No delay
243 (WGTM)	12:00 Sat	22:00 Fri	07:45 Sunday	07:45 Sunday	No delay
243 (CHCH)	12:00 Sat	22:00 Fri	05:30 Tuesday*	05:30 Tuesday*	No delay

*Non Haz. Hazardous freight arrives Wednesday as usual

Tailored Solutions

If there is a portion of your rail freight that needs a tailored solution in order to meet your service promise because of service delays, please contact us to arrange. We will only meet additional costs for arrangements agreed with us in advance.



Next steps

More details on the Rail Network Rebuild and the CRL Readiness programme can be found [on our website](#).

Your account executive will be in touch with you over the coming days to guide you through detailed planning for the immediate Christmas / January period but if you have any questions please don't hesitate to get in touch.

We will begin planning for the Easter block in late January taking into account our learnings through the Christmas / January period.

We understand that any disruption to your rail service creates a drain on scarce resources which are scarcer at this time of the year and that the timing of this is frustrating. We also acknowledge your feedback that disruption processes have not always run smoothly in the past. We are keen to ensure that we work with you, and in an integrated way with other transport services, to make the periods of disruption over the next 12 months as seamless as possible and to enable you to meet your service promise – which is our focus.

Thank you.

Ngā mihi nui,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adele Wilson".

Adele Wilson

Chief Customer & Growth Officer

