

## IMEX Embargoed until 11:00am

Friday 8 November 2024

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 the Christmas Block of Line plan for Auckland and its impact on services to and from Auckland rail depots, Port of Auckland and Port of Tauranga. 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 in Auckland December 27 2024 until January 27 2025**. These changes will impact rail services to and from both Ports of Auckland and Port of Tauranga;
- **There is no need for any line nor any rail freight customer to re-route freight.**
- As part of the CRL project works, and as we have done in other years for CRL and other work, **KiwiRail working with its Port partners will deliver road-bridging solutions** during these periods to ensure all rail freight is able to be moved.

Further details are below and in the maps attached.

We acknowledge how late in the year this significant news is being delivered. We have worked as quickly as we have been able to since being notified of the CRL project plan. We 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. Enabling you to continue to meet your service promise is our focus.

### 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 in Auckland

### 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 shunt route available, access to customer sidings.
- 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, network shut, only Mission Bush available.

### Wellington

We will work separately with IMEX customers impacted by Wellington closures.

### Freight Solutions in Place

There is no need for any lines to re-route freight. Effective solutions are in place to service both Port of Auckland and Port of Tauranga.

### Port of Auckland to and from Wiri Inland Port

Customers moving their containers between Port of Auckland and the Wiri Inland Port will be supported by road-bridge over this period.

### Port of Auckland to and from KiwiRail Southdown

Rail services will run as usual between Port of Auckland and KiwiRail Southdown between 3 January and 24 January when the line will close. It will reopen on 27 January 2025 at 18:00hrs.

Rail services will not run between 27 December 2024 and 2 January 2025, with road-bridging in place over this short period.

### Southdown / Metroport to and from Port of Tauranga

We proudly operate in partnership with Port of Tauranga, New Zealand's third largest container port.

Working with Port of Tauranga, Ruakura Inland Port and our own container operations yard in Frankton, all import and export containers will be road-bridged between Hamilton (Frankton and Ruakura) and Southdown.

### Next steps

We understand that any disruption to your rail service impacts key supply chains and we are committed to making the short term use of road-bridging operations seamless for our customers. Ensuring you meet your service promise is our focus.



Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation as we carry out the necessary work to prepare our rail network for the freight and passenger demands of the future. 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.

Ngā mihi nui,



Adele Wilson

Chief Customer & Growth Officer.

