**AT Flood Recovery – July 2024**

**Flood Recovery Team hard at it after 18 months**

Eighteen months after extreme weather conditions wreaked havoc across the Auckland region, AT’s flood response team continues to work through a long list of local road slip repairs – often requiring complex design solutions that take time and money to execute.

During the months of January and February 2023 the Auckland regional received 614.8mm of rain – 440% higher than the average rainfall for the Auckland and northern regions. Severe and extensive damage was caused across the Auckland Transport Network. More than 2,000 slips and roading issues were reported following the Auckland Anniversary Weekend floods in January 2023 and Cyclone Gabrielle a few weeks later.

During the height of the storms AT had 130 full road closures in place across Auckland, one bridge (Mill Flat Bridge) washed away and the abutments on Sherwood Drive Bridge were washed out. AT people and contractors worked around the clock to respond and within one week 75% of the closed road were re-opened and access was restored at the two bridge sites.

During the next three months the team cleaned up around 1,200 small slips, removed tonnes of floating debris from Auckland harbours and around 3000 abandoned vehicles were towed or removed from the local road network.

AT’s initial emergency response then moved to recovery, with more than 800 sites needing minor (<$250,000) to major (>$250,000) repairs. Work kicked off immediately under Emergency Works provisions to fix an estimated $390 million worth of slip repairs.

Last year’s storms are a distant memory for many Aucklanders, but not those whose lives have been affected and certainly not AT’s Flood Recovery team, led by Allan Wallace and Jez Pellow.

“Our people have worked at pace to restore safe access to communities in often challenging conditions,” Alan says. “We’re not just repairing slips and roads, we’re working alongside utility companies to reinstate services, and building as much resilience as we can to make each dollar go further.”

“We’re taking the opportunity to deliver cost-effective reinstatement that meets current standards, improves drainage and provides robust geotechnical and structural solutions that protects existing infrastructure and is less likely to be impacted by climate change.

To date (end of July 2024) we have repaired 576 (70%) of the 821 minor and major sites. Of the 233 total number of major sites, 101 (47%) have been completed and another 29 are under construction.

Of the 590 minor sites listed, 475 (81%) have been completed and 8 are currently under construction. A major milestone is the repair of all 255 minor sites in the North Rural area.

Allan Wallace says these achievements are a testament to the people in his team who continue to drive flood recovery efforts forwardsince the first big flood on Friday 24 January 2023.

“Some of these people hardly slept during the first few days and their recovery commitment to Auckland communities is commendable” he said. “Many of our people took on flood recovery work in addition to their day jobs ; They have my continuing thanks and admiration for their ongoing effort. There’s still a way to go, so please be kind to them all!

There are currently 10 local roads with full closures in place, 22 roads are open to single lane, 2 are open under restrictions, and 9 roads are closed – (Residents’ Access Only).

By the end of June 2024, AT had spent $200 million addressing sites and communities affected by the 2023 weather events. This is 51% of the projected total forecast Flood Recovery cost of $390 million funded through a combination of NZTA and Crown Infrastructure Partners funding.