

## Extracts from regular emails from Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency Media team

Received 9:31am and 5:45pm 31 May 2021

### Auckland Harbour Bridge cycling protest

[One person arrested after Auckland Harbour Bridge protest](#) - Manukau Courier - 30th May 2021

[Huge bike rally sees two Northbound lanes closed on Auckland's Harbour Bridge](#) - TVNZ - 30th May 2021

[Cyclists close lanes on Auckland Harbour Bridge](#) - Radio New Zealand - 30th May 2021

Two northbound lanes on the Auckland Harbour Bridge have reopened after they were closed by hundreds of cycling protesters this morning.

['Lawbreaking protestors': ACT condemns Auckland biking advocates who forced Harbour Bridge lane closures 3 hours ago](#) - Newshub - 30th May 2021

[Cycling protesters close two lanes of Auckland Harbour Bridge](#) - New Zealand Herald - 30th May 2021

Auckland motorists experienced long delays after cycling activists breached a police barrier and crossed the Auckland Harbour Bridge, forcing the closure of two northbound lanes.

### Media round-up – May 31

- 1) **Auckland Harbour Bridge cycling protest:** The attached statement was sent to *Stuff* in regards to the Bike Auckland organised event on Sunday, during which cyclists breached a police cordon to enter onto the Harbour Bridge forcing the closure of two lanes. The same statement was also sent to *TVNZ*, *Newshub*, *NewstalkZB* and *Landscape Aoteroa*.

Brett Gliddon, Waka Kotahi General Manager of Transport Services also provided an interview to Checkpoint with Lisa Owen.

The below statement was sent to TVNZ regarding questions around an alert issued in error on Auckland Transport's weekend about road closures on the Harbour Bridge.

*"Waka Kotahi worked with Police and Auckland Transport ahead of Sunday's event to make sure preparations were in place to ensure the safety of road users and our staff should there be any disruptions on the wider Auckland transport network ahead. While no permit had been given for people to cross the Harbour Bridge on bike or by foot, nor had we been told people would cross, this did include logistical plans to be able to close the Auckland Harbour Bridge in preparation for all eventualities.*

*Our ability to mitigate and prevent incidents across the network is greatly enhanced when we work collaboratively with our key partners to share pertinent information and put logistical plans in place.*

*This is standard procedure for any event which has the potential to affect the operation of the transport network, including state highways, local roads and public transport.*

*There was a system error that occurred which caused an alert to be mistakenly issued on the Auckland Transport website, which was removed afterwards. Auckland Transport has no jurisdiction over the Auckland Harbour Bridge and as such any official messages will always come directly from Waka Kotahi.*

*Two northbound lanes were forced to close as police facilitated a group of cyclists who breached police cordons in order to cross over the bridge. When notified of the pedestrian activity on the Current St on-ramp which leads to the Auckland Harbour Bridge, Waka Kotahi traffic managers acted quickly in a live traffic environment to close the lanes to create a safe environment and maintain the remaining two northbound lanes."*