



Media Advisory

Bluecliffs State of Emergency

Number: 04

Date: 16 February 2024

Time: 12.30pm

Bluecliffs emergency work to pause

This is an official message from the Civil Defence Controller Simon Mapp

Update – Bluecliffs state of emergency - #4

With the extension to the state of emergency for Bluecliffs this week, Emergency Management Southland continues to coordinate efforts for the Bluecliffs community.

Environment Southland and its contractors have been progressing work at the opening of the Waiiau River bar since Tuesday morning.

However, the volume and nature of the material to be moved is proving more challenging than anticipated.

Group controller Simon Mapp said, “We had hoped the opening could be completed this week, but the scale of the work required combined with the predicted strong sea swells and gale force winds from Sunday to Tuesday mean that this work will need to be paused.

“Works will halt from Sunday 18 February for health and safety reasons and will most likely return to the area early on Wednesday 21 February, if conditions are safe. We’re hopeful the work will be completed by the end of next week.

“We know residents want to see this work completed as soon as possible, however the safety of those doing this work is paramount given the challenging physical environment.”

Timing of sea swells, tides and river flows will play a key part in the success of the opening, and Meridian is supporting this by managing the river flow as much as possible.

Roads in the area will continue to be restricted for public access.

ENDS

This release has been issued by the Duty Public Information Manager on the authority of the Southland Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Controller.

Contact Duty Public Information Manager, ph 027 384 0104

Website: www.civildefencesouthland.govt.nz