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## The Cambridge to Piarere death trap

Another death, just two weeks after another one. On the same chicane, three kilometres after the Waikato Expressway finishes.

The obvious solution is to extend the Expressway to the Piarere interchange, but that will take several years to build says Waikato Chamber of Commerce CEO Don Good. What's more, Waka Kotahi's planned safety improvements to this section of the current road won't be completed for at least two years.

*"That is an unacceptable delay and the Minister of Transport will be responsible if more people die on this stretch of road. Wouldn't it be amazing if Minister Wood came out and said, 'We got it wrong. We will start the safety improvements on this northern section in October this year, and we will fund and get the Expressway from Cambridge to Piarere completed with work starting this year as well'."*

*"I'm calling on the Minister of Transport Michael Wood and Waka Kotahi Chief Executive Nicole Rosie to come to the Waikato and see this stretch of road for themselves – to see what an absolute death trap it is," Good said.*

*"This is Phil Twyford and Julie Anne Genter's ideological legacy. If the proposal for the Cambridge to Piarere Expressway section had gone ahead as originally planned, many lives would have been saved, bodies never brutally smashed up and families would still have their loved ones," Good said.*

*"Waka Kotahi are back pedalling in the face of what they know was the wrong decision. This is the PR spin that came out in an NZ Herald story when two people died two weeks ago."*

***Waka Kotahi speed and infrastructure programme director Dave Van Standen said safety improvements were well under way for the road between Cambridge and Piarere.***

***Safety improvement designs for the 7.5km of road from the end of the Waikato Expressway to Fergusson Gully Rd were expected to be approved shortly, however, construction was not expected to begin before the 2023/24 summer.***

“This stretch of road and all roads in New Zealand will be an election issue next year. If you are a politician asking your electorate for votes, make sure your party has clear roading policies with the funding committed.

“Hamilton, with its two bellwether seats will be fought on this and other issues. No-one wants to see people dying when practical infrastructure decisions are overridden by ideological politicians.”

Ends

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