

Rock contract shared

TRANSPORT Wairarapa is involved in a 26,000 tonne contract to supply huge rocks from a quarry at Pongaroa, 96 km north of Masterton, to Wellington.

The contract is shared with a Wanganui firm, Loader Ltd, and involves transport of massive sandstone boulders, some weighing up to 11 tonnes each, for river and harbour protection work in Wellington.

Five trucks, two from Loaders and three from Transport Wairarapa, are involved in the rock shuttle run, each making two trips a day.

So far, about 19,000 tonnes have been shifted on the 170 km run.

This week the trucks are also involved in trucking the first shipment of seven bargeloads of rock rip rap from the South Island, ordered for Wellington Regional Council's Hutt River stopbank protection works at Pomare.

They are shifting the barged rocks from Glasgow wharf, where they arrived last Friday to Pomare.

The 800 tonne payload of barged rocks were towed by a tug across Cook Strait on

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Thursday last, after loading at Takaka.

A total of 10,000 tonnes of rock are being used in groynes at Pomare, with 6000 tonnes coming from a quarry at Collingwood.

The other 4000 tonnes will come from the Pongaroa quarry of Mr Gavin Herbert.

Transport Wairarapa's operations manager Russell Wilkin said the Pongaroa-Wellington round trip is taking about 7 hours.

He does not expect the end of the current contract to finish the rock run, because other contracts could well open up.

"There is a big shortage of large boulders and we could get contracts from other organisations in future" he said.

Nothing has eventuated so far of a proposal to ship big rocks from a hill at Te Awaite, on the Palliser Coast, by barge to Wellington, although the old Featherston County Council gave planning approval for the project last year.