

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Pūhoi to Warkworth stage of the Ara Tūhono – Pūhoi to Wellsford RoNS



Turning the first sods - from left: NZ Transport Agency Board Chairman Chris Moller, Transport Minister Simon Bridges, outgoing Prime Minister John Key, Hōkai Nuku Chairman Mook Hohneck and Northern Express Group Chairman Richard Didsbury

Sod turning celebration

The Northern Express Group (NX2), the Government and the NZ Transport Agency marked a key milestone on Thursday 8 December 2016 when the first sods were turned, signalling the official start to construction of the Pūhoi to Warkworth motorway project.

The sod turning took place at Wyllie Road, Warkworth. Guests included retiring Prime Minister John Key, Transport Minister Simon Bridges, Hōkai Nuku Chairman Mook Hohneck, NX2 Chairman Richard

Didsbury and Chairman of the NZ Transport Agency Board Chris Moller. The event was one of the last for Mr Key before he stood down as Prime Minister. He said he believed that with the way Auckland was growing, modern, safe and effective motorways like Pūhoi to Warkworth were essential for the city, and the economy of Northland.

Pūhoi to Warkworth will form the first stage of the Government's Ara Tūhono Pūhoi to Wellsford Road of National Significance (RoNS). This stage will extend the Northern Motorway (SH1) 18.5km from the Johnstone's Hill tunnels just south of Pūhoi to just south of the Kaipara Flats Road intersection north of Warkworth.



Logging of forest areas near Moir Hill Road

Logging work will start on Monday 23 January. NX2 teams will begin to clear the commercial pine forest areas to the north of Moir Hill Road. This work will last about four to five months. During that time logging will also start to the south of Moir Hill Road.

The work will clear the path (officially called the alignment) for the motorway, with the logs either being taken to port for export or used locally for pulp.

Before logging commences the road will be chip sealed and access points created for vehicles onto project sites from the public road.

There will be logging truck and trailer units using Moir Hill Road through to May, depending on weather conditions.

There will be a Site Specific Traffic Management Plan (SSTMP) to manage traffic movements and ensure safety for pedestrians and drivers. The SSTMP will establish temporary speed restrictions for construction traffic for the duration of the project. We will keep residents informed and work with the Moir Hill Road Liaison Group to ensure people know what is happening.

Stock photo

Track Closure Moir Hill Walkway

The Department advises that the Moir Hill Walkway will be closed to all public access under section 38(1)(a) of the Walkways Access Act 2008, due to logging operations.

The Waterfall Track, and the Beverley Price Loop Track remain open. The track will be closed from Monday 16th January 2017, until further notice. We apologise for any inconvenience.

For more information call 09 379 6476.



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Informal information sessions

The NX2 stakeholder and communications team hosted two informal information sessions in Warkworth and Pūhoi in December 2016.

The sessions were an opportunity for the community to view the motorway alignment, get any questions or concerns answered, and to meet key members of the NX2 project team. Both sessions were successful with a steady

flow of people at both. Comments received included "Great evening, loved the way the information was displayed" and "Very informative and good to have people here that know what they are talking about".

Information displayed at the events can be found on the project website www.nx2group.com



Some of the people at the Warkworth information session.

What's Happening Next?

- Surveying and geotechnical investigations are continuing, including the building of trial embankments. These embankments will help test the ability of the ground to handle the loads from bridges and other structures.
- Chip sealing sections of Moir Hill Road and Wyllie Road to help prevent any future dust problems if the roads were left unsealed.
- Moir Hill Road will see an increase in traffic due to logging operations from early in the New Year (see above). There will be some limited construction traffic on other local roads such as Wyllie Road and Woodcocks Road.
- Fencing the construction area and creating construction site access points.
- Ecology teams will be out along the project collecting native snails, lizards and fish for relocation to new permanent habitats.

Meet the Team

DR RAY WILSON, PROJECT DIRECTOR AND CEO OF THE NX2 CONSORTIUM

The chance to lead the NX2 Consortium's successful bid for the Pūhoi to Warkworth stage of the Ara Tūhono – Pūhoi to Wellsford RoNS brought Ray Wilson back from Australia to his homeland, and to the country where he cut his engineering teeth on some of New Zealand's iconic infrastructure projects.

Ray started his career as an engineer with the former Ministry of Works and Development. He worked on the New Plymouth Power Station, the Huntly Power Station and the Clyde Dam before heading offshore to gain international experience.

After returning as General Manager for McConnell Dowell in New Zealand, Ray moved to Australia for further career development.

Ray has more than 40 years' experience developing and operating major infrastructure projects.

Most recently, he managed the development and operation of the then-largest transport infrastructure PPP (Public Private Partnership) in Australia, the A\$4.2B Airport Link in Brisbane.

Ray was appointed to the CEO role at NX2 late last year.

"I have a lot of 'hands on' experience managing the development and operation of transport PPPs in Australia and this is a

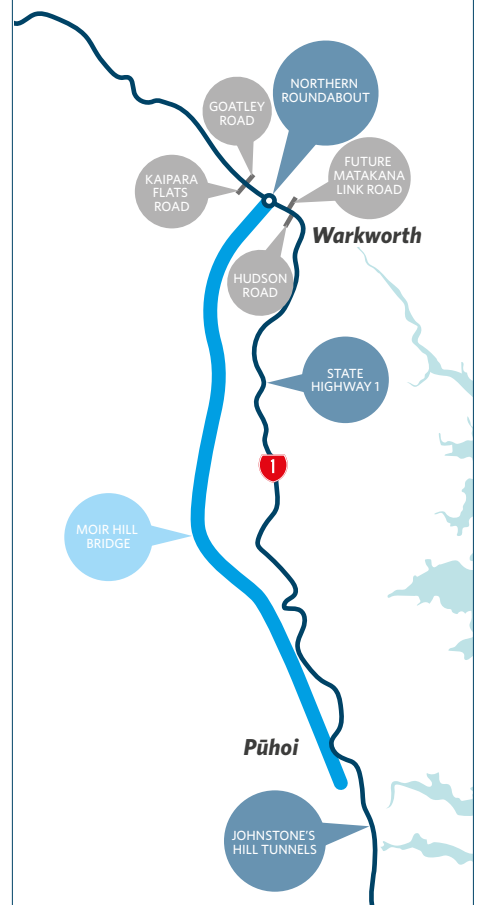


chance to bring that experience back here to see what I could contribute to the project. Plus, I have family links still in New Zealand which was an added attraction.

"PPPs can deliver a really good result if they are done well. The key is to integrate the design and construction team with the NZ Transport Agency and the other partners such as Hōkai Nuku so we are all moving in one direction.

"By building common goals, we can deliver all our objectives."

NX2 PŪHOI TO WARKWORTH MOTORWAY ALIGNMENT



Urban and Landscape Design Sector Plans

As part of the detailed design of the motorway, NX2 will prepare Urban Landscape and Design Sector Plans (ULDSPs) for each sector of the project - Pūhoi, Moir Hill, Hikauae Creek, and Warkworth. ULDSPs will also be prepared for some specific locations where attention needs to be given to visual effects and screening, such as construction areas and yards.

A ULDSP includes drawings and details on the various construction and design elements of the project. An example is for any construction yards within 200m of a residential dwelling, the plans will detail the

screening of the yards. Another example is for permanent project elements, the ULDSP will detail the motorway and local road design, pedestrian and cycle facilities, retaining walls and landscaping of earthworks areas.

The project team will be working through these plans in early 2017. NX2 is proposing a two-stage approach for the ULDSP consultation. Residents listed in the BOI conditions will firstly receive ULDSPs for the temporary construction works (such as construction yards), and at a later stage will receive ULDSPs for the permanent works such as final landscaping.

This process will give more time for consultation with stakeholders and the community, and allow appropriate consideration of the final form and legacy features of the project, instead of producing generic information in the early stages of the project - which would not meet the expectations of the community.

An alteration to the Designation conditions with Auckland Council is required for this approach and this has been lodged with Auckland Council.

If you have questions about the ULDSPs, please give us a call or email.

Contact us

NX2 is a team of dedicated professionals experienced in working with communities, who are on hand to work with you and answer any questions you may have. You can contact us 24/7 in case of emergencies and concerns via our freephone number 0508 P2WK INFO (0508 7295 4636), or by emailing us at info@nx2group.com.

The NX2 project website is now live. For up to date project information please visit: www.nx2group.com

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

NX2 are looking for a local photographer to contract to the project to take regular progress photos and photos of special events for the next five years. We are looking for a professional, flexible person, who would need to have a reasonable amount of fitness (some areas of the project site are in difficult terrain). If you are interested please send your details, a bio, a selection of images and your best hourly rates to info@nx2group.com attention to Jocelyn Shaw.

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