

## A big start to a big year

Kia Ora

Summer is in full swing for us here at Ara Tūhono – Pūhoi to Warkworth. We're well into our third and final major earthworks season and we're beginning to see how the motorway is going to look as we progress our major road surfacing work. It's a very busy, but exciting, time for everyone involved in the project.



Good progress is being made on our structures and many of you will see this as you drive past Arawhiti ki Ōkahu (Ōkahu Viaduct) and Arawhiti ki Pūhoi (Pūhoi Viaduct). Building these structures is technically challenging, but very rewarding. It's great to see the steel beams being placed into position on the southern bridges. This gives a real sense of how the motorway will look.

### SAFETY

Our focus this year remains on safety. We can never be complacent, especially as we start tie-in works at the northern and southern connections. That's why we have detailed traffic management plans in place and work very closely with Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency to make sure motorists, and our staff, are safe while working alongside State Highway 1.

That's also why there are speed reductions in place from 80km to 60km as you leave Johnstones Hill Tunnels heading north. This is a complex, staged construction programme which will require multiple traffic shifts to connect Johnstones Hill Tunnel to the new motorway by early 2021. We'll make sure we keep you updated as the work progresses.

We're also installing girders on Arawhiti ki Pūhoi and will have temporary night-time traffic management and some temporary road closures. Dates, at time of writing, are to be confirmed, but we are working closely with the Pūhoi community to keep residents informed ahead of time.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused, and ask for your patience in the interests of your safety, and that of our crews working adjacent to live traffic.

### A DAY FOR THE COMMUNITY

Finally, I want to let you know that we are getting ready for our annual community open day. This is a big event for us and one which garners a lot of interest. We're very much in planning mode – and haven't nailed down our dates – but we will certainly be providing more information as we progress.

We'll make sure we keep our Facebook page, and website [nx2group.com](http://nx2group.com), updated as more information becomes available, so make sure you keep an eye on these.

Ngā mihi,  
Robert Jones

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