

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



Photo's from the 2022 Project Open Day

Project Open Day delights the community

The project finally held its long awaited Public Open Day on Saturday 29 October. After all the setbacks in recent years the day was a great success. Over 1300 locals and visitors enjoyed a 90-minute guided bus ride through the full project alignment South to North, and then met the project team at the information and food hub based in and around the Mahurangi Rugby Club rooms.

Our partners Hōkai Nuku officially opened the day with a karakia and the project team were waiting in the wings for the first of the public to arrive and the day to get into full swing.

The community sure seemed to enjoy themselves not only on the bus tour but also at the project information stands, interacting with the team and enjoying a coffee, ice cream or sausage sizzle.

We heard a few comments across the day. "Wow, that was amazing."

"I'm in total awe of the scale and size behind the scenes."

"I loved every minute of the trip, thanks to all concerned for putting this together."

"It was an excellent day. Well organised, knowledgeable team and our tour guide was brilliant. Thank you."

The bus trip was free, but the project asked punters for a gold coin donation upon entering the bus. These donations, along

with the money made at the sausage sizzle went to the Warkworth Fire Brigade – we raised \$3115.

We also had a raffle for pottery vase made by a project staff member, from materials sourced from the project itself. Proceeds for this raffle went to Plunket and we raised \$232.

Winner of the vase was Sharon Adams – congratulations!

Lots of activity north of Auckland as project team's co-ordinate works in November and December

As we build momentum towards completing the new motorway, we are now at the stage where we need to connect parts of the new road with the existing motorway and State Highway 1 (SH1), this means there will be several road closures on SH1 in both the north and the south during November and December.

We will start this work at the Northern Connection where the project team will carry out median island works and northbound widening works to SH1. To carry out this work safely we must close SH1 southbound and northbound from Kaipara Flats Road to Hudson Road, from 9pm to 5am. A detour will be in place via Kaipara Flats Road and Woodcocks Road.

- Sunday 20 November to Thursday 24 November
- Sunday 27 November to Thursday 1 December
- Sunday 4 December to Thursday 8 December
- Sunday 11 December to Thursday 15 December

At the Southern Connection the project team will undertake work from the Johnstons Hill Tunnels (JHT) up to Puhoi on the ITS gantry, signage installations and traffic management works (i.e., barrier removal, line marking). This means SH1 will be closed in both directions – Silverdale to Johnstone Hill Tunnels northbound and Pūhoi to Grand Drive southbound. The detour will be via Hibiscus Coast Highway or State Highway 16, from 10pm to 5am.

- Sunday 27 November to Thursday 1 December
- Sunday 4 December to Thursday 8 December
- Sunday 11 December

Our project team and Waka Kotahi Maintenance teams are once again working together to ensure that we capitalise on these closures and get as much work done as possible in order to minimise disruptions.

From Sunday 4 December to Sunday 11 December there will be a minor road layout change at the Southern Connection with both southbound and northbound traffic using the southbound tunnel.

Over Dimension vehicles will be able to get access through the both the work sites during these closures at specific times. Heavy vehicles can use the detour routes or take State Highway 16.

While we will try to limit disruption to traffic flows, we encourage you to plan your journey over this time and check the Waka Kotahi Journey Planner before heading out <https://www.journeys.nzta.govt.nz/>

We appreciate the P2W project works have been ongoing and that residents have endured continued disruptions over the years. We are working hard to complete this work before the busy holiday period, and we will be off the road mid-December and back early in the new year to apply the final OPGA road surface at the northern and southern ends.

Northland/north Auckland speed reviews – new consultation now open

Waka Kotahi would like to thank everyone who took the time to share feedback during the May/June public consultation process. Since we were last in touch, there's been a new approach for managing speed. We are now re-consulting on some pieces from the May/June consultation, under the Interim Speed Management Plan. For the new motorway, we're proposing safe speed limits for the northbound off-ramp, the southbound on-ramp and the area between the Warkworth roundabout to north of Johnstone Hill Tunnels.

Consultation is now open – find out more and have your say by visiting the website at www.nzta.govt.nz/ISMP

Pottery vase created using materials from the project

Our Traffic Engineer, Martin Ward, is a talented potter. Martin loves experimenting with different materials in his pottery and has created some stunning pieces using waste products from the project. This beautiful piece of local history was created using a mix of clays taken from two cut sites in the northern part of the project area. The glaze is made from rhyolitic ash from the Taupō eruption, a seam of which was discovered running through one of the rock cuts on site. Martin's work can also be seen at Takatu Studio in Matakana or check out his website: www.nzstudiopottery.co.nz



Traffic Engineer Martin Ward with the vase he raffled at the project open day

Taki Hono continuing the partnership

A significant milestone of the project was reached on 20 September 2022, with the opening of Taki Hono, the operations building. NX2 operation and maintenance team (AM&M) will use the building for the motorway operations for the next 25 years. The building is located at the Pukerito (Northern Roundabout).

Key representatives from Hōkai Nuku, Waka Kotahi, NX2, and AM&M participated in the whakatau (official welcoming), which included the planting of four kauri trees, symbolising the commitment to the strong partnership between all the parties. This planting was followed with a whakatau with the partners inside the building.

Hōkai Nuku Independent Director, Tame Te Rangi said “the name Taki Hono acknowledges the functions (taki) associated with maintaining and managing the road and the location as being a

connection (hono) between North and South and coast to coast. The planting of the kauri signifies our commitment to the enduring partnerships of all of those involved in the operations of the road.”

Mark McKenzie Waka Kotahi, PPP Programme Delivery Manager also attended the whakatau and said “We’re very fortunate to have the support of Hōkai Nuku throughout the construction phase of the project and while there’s still a lot of work to do before the road can safely open to our customers, we look forward to our continued partnership with iwi during the maintenance phase that will kick off when the safer, more resilient and reliable route opens next year.”

“The morning was incredibly powerful and emotional. This great milestone tells us that as we are moving forward towards the next phase of the project,” Vicente Valencia, NX2 CEO said.



Hōkai Nuku leads the blessing and kauri planting at Taki Hono with Waka Kotahi and NX2 representatives.

Rolling out the flexible road safety barriers

The Ara Tūhono - Pūhoi to Warkworth motorway has been designed to international standards to be one of the safest roads in New Zealand. Along the motorway, we’re keeping you safe with flexible safety barriers in the median and road edges – these are built from steel wire ropes and mounted on posts.

Flexible road safety barriers are a road safety success story. When fitted along the side and centre of the road, they reduce the number of people killed, by up to 90 percent! If you hit a flexible barrier, the steel cables flex, slowing down your vehicle and keeping it upright. They absorb the impact so you and the people with you, don’t.

Roadside and median flexible safety barriers are highly effective in preventing deaths and injuries for all road users including motorcyclists. A study of the NZ motorcycle-barrier crash data from January 2001 to July 2013 shows of 20 motorcycle fatalities sustained as a result of riders hitting a roadside or median barrier, just 3 involved flexible safety (wire rope) barriers, while 13 involved traditional steel ‘W’ beam barriers and 4 other barrier types.

Along the motorway we are installing a total of 48 km of these wire rope barriers throughout the central median and side shoulder of the road.

For more information on flexible road safety barriers check out the Waka Kotahi website at <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/roads-and-rail/road-engineering/road-safety-interventions/flexible-road-safety-barriers/>



Flexible road safety barriers installed along the motorway alignment

We want to hear from you

We work hard to keep stakeholders and the local community up to date about the Ara Tūhono – Pūhoi to Warkworth project, and we’re keen to get your feedback on how we’re doing.

Our latest stakeholder satisfaction survey is live now and will be open until Friday 25 November.

All responses will go in the draw to win a \$50 Countdown voucher.

Click here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2VGD2FJ> to take part.

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