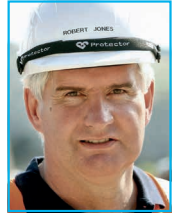


COVID-19 update and what's next for the project



I'm not sure anyone could have predicted the events of the last two months and the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. One thing the construction industry in New Zealand has proven in events like this, and the Christchurch and Kaikoura earthquakes, is how resilient we can be to deal with whatever is thrown at us.

This is no different for the project team. We led an orderly shutdown, kept our people safe and protected the site. We are now carrying out a similar orderly process to open the site, whilst adapting to new protocols to keep everyone safe until we see the back of this virus.

I am proud of the way NX2, Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency and other parties have worked collaboratively to ensure the decisions made during this time are in the best interests of everyone's safety, whilst balancing the requirements to complete the project in a timely manner.

As we gain an understanding of the full impacts and restrictions that will apply as we move through the various Government Alert Levels, we will work with Waka Kotahi to minimise the effects of the COVID-19 restrictions on the project completion date.

The project is now focused on our winter works programme and while the remaining earthworks activities will lessen, you can expect to see good progress with the viaducts and preparation for pavements across the project. You will also start to receive regular updates on works associated with the motorway tie in at the Southern Connection (near the Johnstones Hill Tunnels) and at the north where the motorway ties into the existing SH1.

We are disappointed that we had to postpone this year's community open day as a result of COVID-19. We are working on a new way to share the progress our fantastic team made during the 2019/2020 earthworks season, so watch this space! Keep checking our website NX2group.com and our Facebook page for updates.

Nga Mihi,
Robert



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