

# Protecting our local environment



As local Mahurangi residents well know, the rich, diverse environment through which we are building the Ara Tuhono – Pūhoi to Warkworth motorway deserves protection.

This has been key for our project team and Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency from the start, so we were enormously proud last month to be named the winners of the International Erosion Control Association (IECA) Australasia Environmental Excellence Award.

The motorway is being built to high environmental standards with a focus on protecting native species and our waterways, as well as significant planting and restoration works.

The local streams and rivers are home to many native freshwater species and we also need to keep the Mahurangi and Pūhoi catchments clean, so control of erosion and sediment is hugely important.

The local landscape, with its steep hills and flood plains, has tested us at times but through a collective effort and innovative solutions we've managed to overcome challenges and meet our project milestones – while still achieving positive environmental outcomes.

This award belongs to every person on our project, from the people on the ground trudging around in the mud, putting up silt fences and taking water samples in the rain, to the operators, site supervisors and engineers who plan their works in consideration of our environmental management procedures.

This award is well-deserved recognition of these shared efforts.

Ngā mihi

Robert



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