

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Bat-tastic new homes

We have an important role to play in caring for the environment and the team are working hard to ensure the environmental impact of everything we do is kept to minimum. As part of that work, we're making sure bats have a safe and warm place to roost during the day in the project area. It's also part of our Auckland Council consent conditions to ensure the return of bats to the surrounding area of the new motorway, so our storemen have been busy building some bat roosting boxes.

Over the school holidays, we ran a competition on our Facebook page encouraging local children aged between 5-14 to design. We gave them the brief of using colours that are not too dark (so the bats don't overheat in summer) but to be as creative as they wish.

We had 15 of these local artists come to our Warkworth site office with their parents on Saturday 30 July to paint their designs onto pre-made bat roosting boxes. There was an

array of designs and colours galore, from Miriam's Māori-inspired design to Scarlett's "party house".

All dressed in their special hi-vis vests, the visitors were taken on a drive through of the project. They got to see Te Arawhiti Pua Ngahere (the Kauri Eco Viaduct) where some of the bat roosting boxes will be placed. The children and their parents loved getting a sneak peek at a live construction

site and seeing where their piece of the project will live.

A special thank you to Warkworth Mitre 10 Mega for providing the wood for the boxes and to Resene for supplying a large amount of paint.

We used a Resene template to build the boxes which you can find [here](#) if you would like to create and design your own bat roosting box.



Bat roost competition winners painting their bat boxes at the Warkworth site offices.

According to the Department of Conservation, New Zealand has only two native land mammals, and they are both bats – the long-tailed bat (*Chalinolobus tuberculatus*) and the lesser short-tailed bat (*Mystacina tuberculata*). They have bodies the size of a person's thumb (5–6 centimetres from nose to tail) and a wingspan of nearly 30 centimetres. The Māori name for both species is pekapeka and they are found in native forests from sea level to the treeline.



Traffic switch around Pukerito (Northern Connection) roundabout

It's a busy and exciting time in the north as our team progress works at Pukerito (Northern Connection).

Once complete, this connection will provide a safer, more resilient, and reliable connection to the current State Highway 1 (SH1) and future Matakana Link Road being constructed by Auckland Transport.

We are about halfway through two weeks of full SH1 road closures from Warkworth to Wellsford. These closures are in place to prepare the tie-ins and pavement works in preparation for the traffic switch around the new Pukerito roundabout.

Plan ahead for your journey and check the Waka Kotahi [Journey Planner](#) before you travel. You can also keep up to date on the project Facebook page [@aratuhonopuhoitowarkworth](#) or website [www.nx2group.com](#)

In early September, traffic will switch from the existing SH1 alignment around the new Pukerito roundabout in the north. This will take around one night to complete and during that time SH1 will be closed south of Kiapara Flats Road to Hudson Road, with a short detour around Warkworth. After the switch has taken place, the road surface will be a lot smoother.

After September, we'll be back to complete the tie-in and place the final OGPA surface. This means there will be more night-time closures through to December but, they will only be for a few days each month with a much shorter detour via Hudson Road adding around ten minutes to the journey time.

While this is an exciting stage of the project, we know that delays, detours, stoppages and temporary speed limits can be frustrating but it's all part of the bigger picture towards improving the safety and resilience of SH1.

What is OGPA?

Open graded porous asphalt (OGPA) pavement surfacing is widely used on New Zealand motorways because of the benefit it provides in terms of low noise pollution and its ability to drain water from the road surface during rainstorms.



Shared path – Northern Connection

The 18.5 kilometres of safe, reliable and resilient motorway isn't all the Pūhoi to Warkworth project includes. In Warkworth, we are connecting the existing pathway from the Z Service Station to Goatley Road which means the community can safely move around the area by foot or bike.

The shared path we are constructing extends southbound from about 100m south of Goatley Rd to the new Matakana Link Rd, then there is a pedestrian crossing across SH1 where the path then extends on the northbound side to the Hudson Rd pedestrian crossing.





Public Open Day 2022

Third time lucky! After a couple of setbacks last year due to Covid, we are planning a 2022 Public Open Day in October this year. It will be a bit different to what was originally planned – but exciting none the less with a bus ride along the new motorway, getting a sneak peek behind the gates – so to speak. If you had a ticket booked for last year's event, we will be in touch with you soon to re-book your space on the bus. We will then release the remaining tickets to the wider community. Keep an eye on our Facebook page and project website for details.

What's up in Waipū?

Some of you may be interested to know that Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency is redesigning planned safety improvements along a 7.5km stretch of SH1 near Waipū, based on local knowledge received during engagement with the community.

The project will improve safety for road users through the use of flexible median barriers, shoulder widening, side safety barriers, rumble strips and a wide centre line. Improvements will also be made at four high-risk intersections including Uretiti Road, Nova Scotia Drive/Rosythe Road, Shoemaker Road and The Braigh/Millbrook Road. Revised proposals will be released to the wider community in the coming weeks. Read more about the safety improvements [here](#) and sign up to the SH1 Whangārei-Wellsford project newsletter to receive the latest updates.



Latest flyover footage

[CLICK HERE](#)

Take a look at the latest footage of the Ara Tūhono - Pūhoi to Warkworth Motorway project area from June 2022, flying from Warkworth in the North to Pūhoi in the South. You can also click [here](#) to view the most recent progress photos.

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