

# CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

**Unite  
 against  
 COVID-19**

New Zealand Government

## Back to work! Construction during COVID-19 Alert Level 2 – What does it look like?

In line with the Governments move to COVID-19 Alert Level 3 (Level 3) the project recommenced work on Tuesday 28 April. While some essential environmental, safety and traffic management works continued during the COVID-19 Alert Level 4 shutdown, the majority of the project was shut down.

As we moved into Level 3, we followed a staged increase in work. The staged increase in works was to ensure staff were well briefed, prepared and kept safe as we adapted to a new way of working in line with strict industry standards. Work at Level 3 was very different from our usual way of working. A range of new measures were put in place, including restricted access to the site, requirements for workers to maintain physical distancing, and the use of additional protective clothing.

### What are we doing at Level 2?

As we move into COVID-19 Alert Level 2 (Level 2), more staff will be able to work from the project offices, and a wider range of project activities will recommence across the site.

The project sites will comply with mandatory requirements under Level 2 which include:

- daily safety briefings will still focus on COVID-19 hygiene awareness and safety measures
- use of PPE to follow COVID-19 hygiene protocols i.e. use for staff working within 1 meter
- entering and leaving the workspace, will continue to implement contact tracing and record keeping
- social distancing
- keeping group sizes as small as possible i.e. meetings to 10 people maximum
- waste disposal, equipment use and cleaning.

Please be assured that we are focused on ensuring the health and safety of our staff and the public during this time as we get back on with work on the project, and we request that physical distancing requirements be respected. This also includes our Project Information Centre, at this stage we will not be opening to the public until further notice, if you have any queries please contact the team via the project 0508 P2WK INFO number or email at [info@nx2group.com](mailto:info@nx2group.com).



Staff undertaking site safety inspections near Woodcocks Road



## Our Journey through lockdown

*A message from Robert Jones  
 Project Director*

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 conducted an orderly shutdown, kept our people safe and protected the site. We are now conducting 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.

# Pre-Lockdown - End of Summer Season 2020

*The 2020 summer season saw some amazing weather, perfect for earthworks and for infrastructure construction.*

It did not come without its challenges, including working hard to keep the dust at bay. However, some of the more significant milestones the project achieved this season were:

- Over 2.2 million cubic metres of existing ground excavated or cut. Around 1.4 million cubic metres of the excavated material used as fill to build-up the motorway and create a smooth road gradient
- Arawhiti ki Ōkahu (Ōkahu Viaduct) and Arawhiti ki Pūhoi (Pūhoi Viaduct) – beam installation, we can now see what these impressive structures will look like once completed
- Mahurangi Stream bridge abutment (the area where the bridge connects to the land) work is complete
- Tapuwae o Kahumatamomoe (Moir Hill Bridge) has opened to traffic
- Wyllie Road new alignment has opened to traffic
- Pavement subgrade works in Southern Zone underway



Arawhiti ki Ōkahu (Ōkahu Viaduct)



New Wyllie Road alignment



Pavement subgrade works in Southern Zone



Arawhiti ki Pūhoi (Pūhoi Viaduct) – beam installation



Mahurangi Stream bridge abutment



Community event to celebrate opening of Tapuwae o Kahumatamomoe (Moir Hill Bridge)

## 2020 Project Open Day – Update

We are sorry to confirm that due to COVID-19, the Ara Tūhono – Pūhoi to Warkworth Project Open Day scheduled for 2 May 2020 has been postponed until further notice.

We appreciate there has been a high level of interest in the Open Day and our team was looking forward to showcasing the progress so far on the project, however we need to adhere to Government rules on large gatherings, and prioritise people's health and safety.

We are working on a new way to share the progress our fantastic team has made this 2019/2020 earthworks season, so watch this space! Keep checking our website [NX2group.com](http://NX2group.com) and our Facebook page for updates.

## What's coming up

The end of summer does not mean we slow down, as we move back down through the COVID-19 levels we will be starting full steam ahead in these work areas:

- Southern Interchange works – Enabling works
- Pukerito (Northern Connection) – Enabling works
- Road surfacing – Sub grade preparation in progress
- Landscaping – this winter we aim to be half-way through planting around 1 million trees, plants and shrubs. The vast majority of which are native species.
- Creation of 12 wetlands to encourage aquatic and birdlife



## Pūhoi Road – Road closure for beam installation

In late March 2020, the structures team had almost finished the night works installing large beams on the Arawhiti ki Pūhoi Viaduct across Pūhoi Road. However, work was stopped as we moved to Alert Level 4 on March 26. The team now need three more nights to finish the beam installation.

A small section of **Pūhoi Road will be closed from Sunday 24 May to Tuesday 26 May between 9:00 pm to 04:30 am.** For safety reasons and to minimise the disruption to the travelling public, the work

will be carried out at night. Signposted detours and stop/go traffic management will be in place. Please note the dates are weather dependant and may be postponed if necessary.

As the detours will add a considerable amount of time to your journey, we encourage you to plan your travel for outside the closure hours, where possible. While traffic management will be in the area to guide traffic, we request that physical distancing requirements be respected.



## Meet the Team



### Leigh Mehmet H&S Manager

Leigh Mehmet is the projects Health & Safety Manager, he arrived in New Zealand from Australia, with his wife, in February this year. Leigh has two children – one

living in Coffs Harbour, Australia and a daughter at University in Iowa, USA. A carpenter by trade, Leigh took his passion for construction and health & safety and made it his profession 18 years ago. Leigh is a firm believer that safety needs to be in everything we do. Safety is not an obligation it is an ethical responsibility for everyone. Effective Safety = Proactive Productivity = Project Success. He feels privileged to be in a position where he can influence the way we do business and influence the mindsets of people for safer behaviour and ways of thinking. Leigh says “Safety in the construction industry is as a daily challenge. We are building the motorway to make motorist lives safer, we don’t want to build a motorway and hurt one of our own or the public in the process. Safety is critical in the way we do business”.

Leigh has worked on projects for Acciona in Australia, including a 1.5km dual carriage bridge over the Clarence River in Northern NSW, 41 km dual carriage highway bypass in Toowoomba QLD and 14km inner city light rail project in Sydney. He is really enjoying being on the Project, he says “I love construction. It’s great working with a new team (including some old friendly faces) that have the same drive and passion as I

do, to build a motorway that will benefit the community, save time and save lives”

Since starting he has faced a huge and unprecedented challenge – working under COVID-19. Leigh says “I think COVID-19 has made everyone think about what is important in their lives and how important it is to look after each other. I like the opportunities that are coming through having to work in a different way. It has made us evaluate the way in which we operate and approach construction. I think there will be a lot of beneficial changes to the way we do construction that will see the industry work differently, smarter and safer.

Outside of work Leigh’s main interest is the outdoors. He and his wife love fishing, hiking, camping and exploring the areas around them. Prior to coming to New Zealand, they spent 18 days crossing the middle of Australia. The trip included 800km of sand desert from Birdsville to Uluru, driving over 1250 sand dunes, top temperatures of 45 degrees, over 5,000km travelled. They are very much looking forward to embarking on some road trips while they are here – meeting more friendly people and visiting the beautiful landscapes. He is also looking forward to going to an All Blacks game and to the snow.

# Waka Kotahi is working to ensure safe, resilient and reliable travel between Pūhoi and Warkworth.

## HAVE YOUR SAY Safe, resilient and reliable travel between Pūhoi and Warkworth

PROPOSAL 1

### ARA TŪHONO PŪHOI TO WARKWORTH MOTORWAY TOLLING PROPOSAL

GIVE YOUR  
FEEDBACK FROM  
15 MAY - 15 JUNE  
2020

PROPOSAL 2

### SH1 L PHILLIPS ROAD (NEAR SHEEPWORLD) TO PŪHOI SAFER SPEED PROPOSAL

Waka Kotahi is seeking feedback on two proposals to keep the roads between Pūhoi and Warkworth safe, resilient and reliable.

We are proposing a toll for the new Ara Tūhono – Pūhoi to Warkworth motorway and to ensure the alternative free route is safe, we are formally consulting on proposed lower speed limits for the current State Highway 1.

The new Ara Tūhono – Pūhoi to Warkworth motorway will extend the Northern Motorway (SH1) from Johnstones Hill Tunnels to just north of Warkworth.

It will provide people travelling through this region with a separated motorway and vastly improve the safety, connectivity and resilience of the network between Northland and Auckland, helping to boost the economic potential of the Northland region.

Every new state highway in New Zealand, along with significant upgrades to existing state highways are assessed to see if they meet the

criteria to be tolled. An assessment completed last year confirmed that the Ara Tūhono – Pūhoi to Warkworth motorway is suitable to be a toll road. The motorway is scheduled to open at the end of 2021, but this may be delayed by the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

It's also important that we're ensuring the existing State Highway 1, the alternative free route is safe. One of the best things we can do to prevent people from dying or being seriously injured on this road is reducing speed limits to make them safe and right for the road. That is why we have undertaken a review of the current speed limits on this road between L Phillips Road (near SheepWorld) and Pūhoi.

We want to know what you think of the tolling and speed limit proposals and if there is anything we have not considered before decisions are made.



## To have your say and see more information:

Visit our consultation webpage  
[www.nzta.govt.nz/about-us/consultations](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/about-us/consultations)

Please go online and fill out a feedback form. Alternatively, if you'd like us to send you a form please contact us below:

**TOLLING PROPOSAL** please email:  
P2Wktolling@nzta.govt.nz

**SPEED REVIEW PROPOSAL** please email:  
Auckland.Speed.Reviews@nzta.govt.nz

Or call us at 0800 581 987

# ANZAC Day 2020

ANZAC Day, Saturday 25 April this year, was certainly different for us all. While many of us would normally attend dawn services or similar, this year we had to be creative in how we honoured our fallen heroes. Below are a couple of stories from project staff on what they did.



Jude Pointon and her husband whilst at the letterbox, completely in the dark, listening to a service on the car radio and the neighbours playing the last post in the distance, captured the sun rising over Warkworth.



Karsten Stevenson's sons made poppies out of paper plates, painted them red and attached them to sticks from the garden. These were placed at the front gate, where they stood at dawn as a family.



Rachel Clayton and her daughter crafted poppies for her home school project made from reusable shopping bags and placed them out at their front gate.

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