

# CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

## Road to completion – What's coming up

2023 is here! And we are getting closer to opening the new motorway.

The project team is working to complete all physical works in a safe and timely manner as well as completing all necessary safety and quality tests and related approvals which are required before the new road can open. We are working on opening as soon as possible.

At the Southern Connection there will be extended road closures at the Johnstones Hill Tunnels, as well as the likelihood of additional road layout changes.

Overnight closures are planned in both directions during February and March 2023 to complete the final road surfacing, chip sealing, barrier installation, line marking and signage.

### Northbound SH1 closures between Silverdale to Johnstones Hill Tunnels (JHT).

Detours will be in place via Hibiscus Coast Highway, from 9pm to 5am.

- **Sunday 12 to Thursday 16 February**
- **Sunday 19 to Thursday 23 February**
- **Sunday 26 February to Thursday 2 March**
- **Sunday 5 to Thursday 9 March**

While the northbound closure is in place, traffic will detour along Hibiscus Coast Highway (HCH). A stop/go operation will be in place on HCH to manage traffic safely.

Over Dimension vehicles will be assisted through the site via our traffic management team. Heavy vehicles are advised to take State Highway 16.

### Southbound SH1 closure between Pūhoi to the Johnstones Hill Tunnels (JHT).

Detours will be in place via Hibiscus Coast Highway, from 9pm to 5am.

- **Wednesday 15 February and Thursday 16 February**
- **Sunday 19 to Thursday 23 February**
- **Sunday 26 February to Thursday 2 March**
- **Sunday 5 to Thursday 9 March**
- **Sunday 12 to Thursday 16 March**

These works are being coordinated alongside closures at Dome Valley for maintenance as both teams are again working together to ensure that we capitalise on these closures

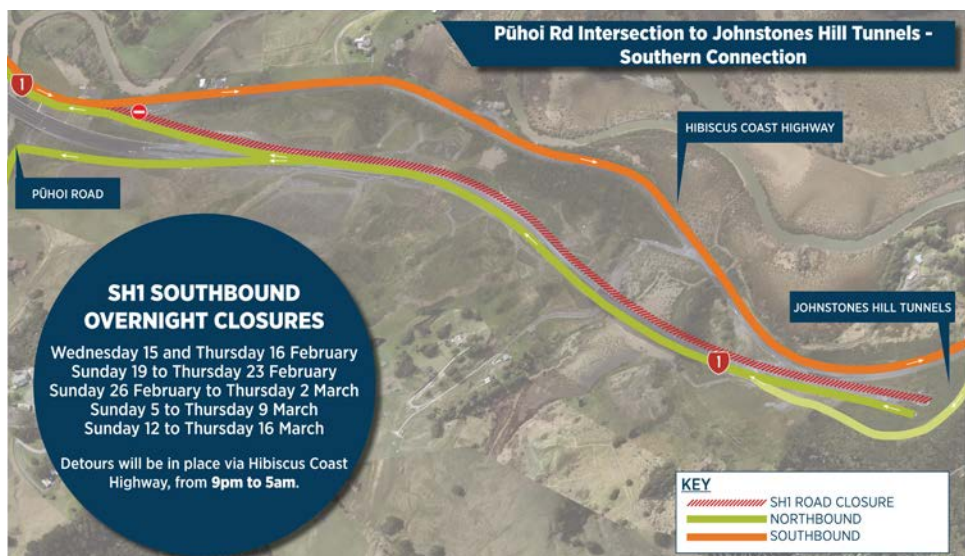
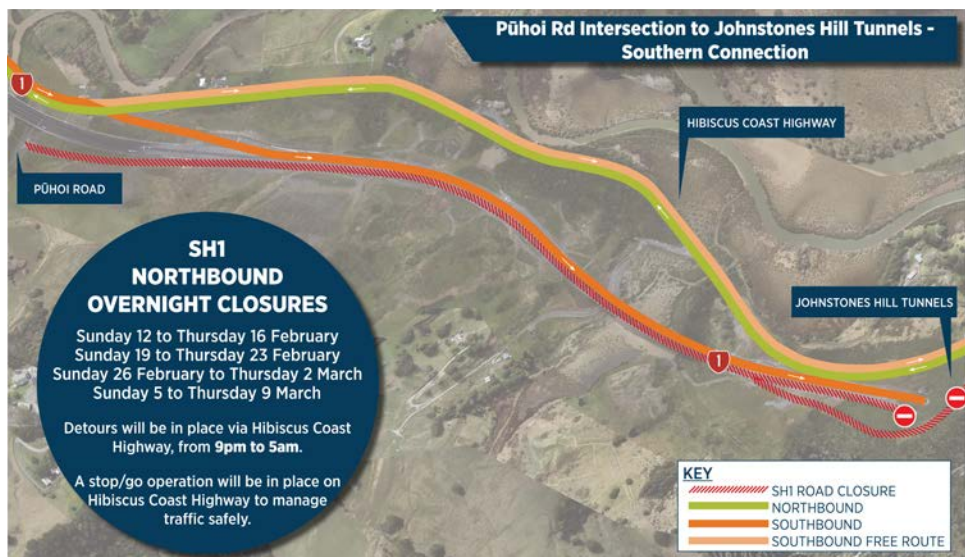
and get as much work done with the least possible disruption.

Additional to these night-time road closures, there may be additional road layout changes needed in the south to complete the final tie-in works around the JHT. We will update you once we have more information. So, keep an eye on our website [info@nx2group.com](http://info@nx2group.com) or follow our Facebook page [@aratuhtonopuhoitowarkworth](https://www.facebook.com/aratuhtonopuhoitowarkworth).

While all efforts have been made 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/>

These construction works connecting with the Northern Gateway and SH1 are part of the final stages before the new motorway can be opened. While this will impact travel, completion of these works takes us closer to opening the new motorway as soon as possible and we are all looking forward to enjoying a safer, more resilient, and reliable road with more consistent travel times.



# Works Completion – What does this mean?

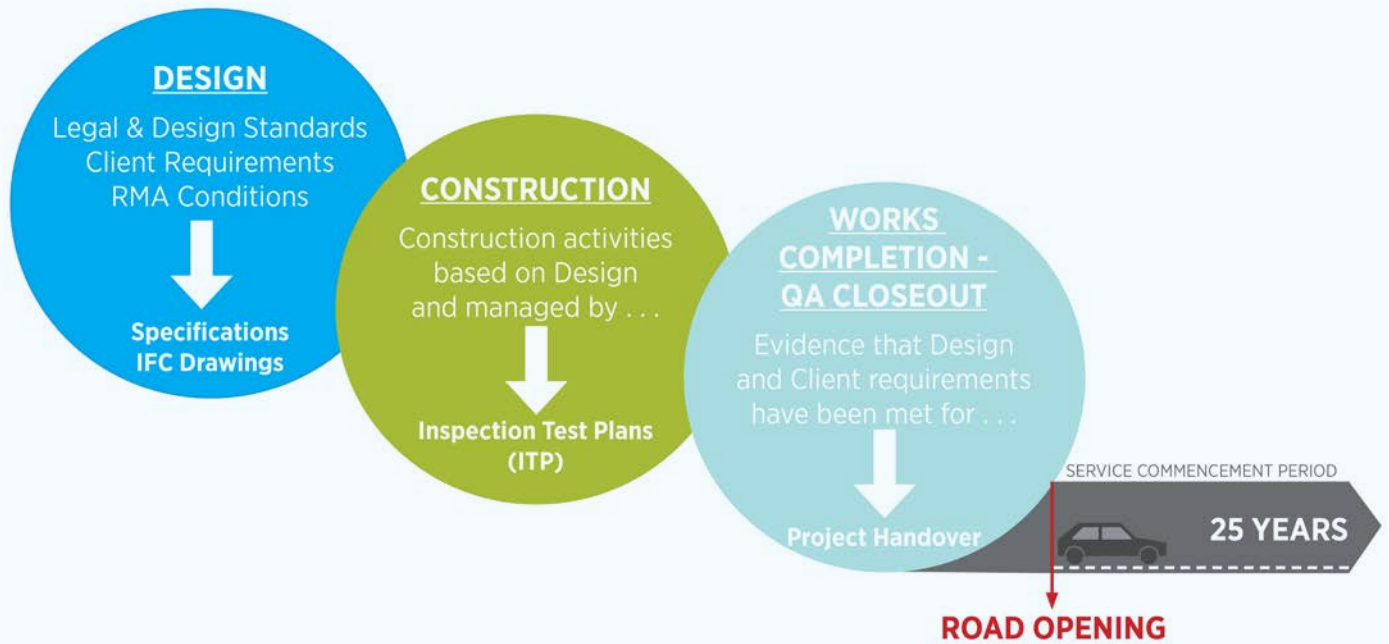
The project team is working hard towards opening and are focused on completing the new motorway as safely and quickly as possible.

Before the new motorway can be safely and legally opened for public use, the project team need to ensure that safety, legal, quality, and environmental requirements have been checked, met,

and verified by an Independent Reviewer. These are called the Works Completion Tests, and they are an important part in demonstrating that all contractual requirements relating to the construction phase of the project have been met.

There are 117 tests across all the project disciplines, 51 of these need to be completed before compliance is met,

the road opens, and handed over to the operations and maintenance team for the 25-year service period. Majority of the activities supporting these 51 tests have been completed and the team is currently in the Quality Assurance Closeout phase and working towards achieving Works Completion.



# Recent extreme rainfall event

*In the recent weeks we have seen unprecedented rainfall affecting the whole of the Auckland Region. The Warkworth area was hard hit and roads in and out of the town were inaccessible at various times.*

We are assessing the effects of the weather event and continue to work hard to have the road open as soon as possible. We appreciate your patience as we work to complete the new motorway.

During these rainfall events our team worked hard trying to ensure everyone remained safe in one of the most extreme weather events our area has experienced.

We would like to take this time to say thank you and acknowledge every member of our community for their work and patience during this challenging time.

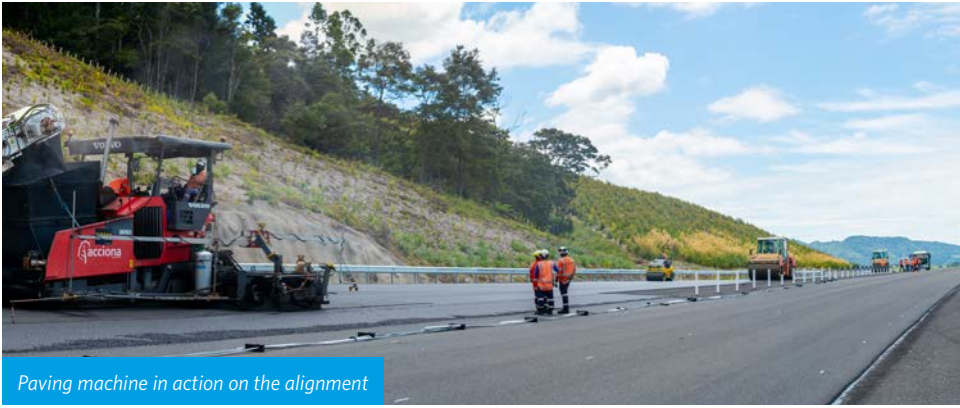
Thank you to those of you that were out and about working in the community and with our team, offering up your homes, rescuing trapped vehicles and animals from the flooded areas. You kept us up to date with what was happening near you, which in turn allowed our teams to attend areas as quickly as possible.

As the Hibiscus Coast Highway on-ramp has

been affected by the weather events, Waka Kotahi worked quickly to pause the toll on the Northern Gateway. This pause will remain until Friday 10 February or until the

on-ramp is re-opened, to provide motorists who need to travel in the area with a free and reliable alternative to the Hibiscus Coast Highway.





Paving machine in action on the alignment

## Paving the way for the new motorway

We have now paved the majority of the new alignment in the final layer of asphalt.

While there are works to do in and around the northern and southern connections, this work can only be completed closer to opening. This exciting achievement means that the road surface is now nearing physical completion.

The final asphalt layer is called Open Graded Porous Asphalt (OGPA) and is what the project team call the 'icing on the cake'.

Due to the porous nature of the surface (as they name suggests), it allows water to drain through the asphalt and off the road surface a lot faster than regular asphalt. Less water on the surface of the motorway

decreases the chances of aquaplaning in a heavy rain event and minimises the risk of motorist's vision being impaired by vehicle water spray from tyres.

OGPA also helps reduce average traffic tyre noise. Originally it was just going to be used at the Northern and Southern Connections and other select areas of the motorway, but the decision was made to use OGPA for the whole alignment with a 'whole of life' approach to create an enduring and easier to maintain road.

The team will be applying the final road surface at the northern and southern ends of the project in the coming months to tie in the motorway with the existing State Highway 1.

## Tree Removal works at Pā o Te Hemara Tauhia

The Southern end of the project site has been a hive of activity in the past couple of weeks as we welcomed back to site some seriously big kit in the form of a 450-tonne crane. If you have travelled through the Johnstones Hill Tunnels recently, you will have seen the operations and may have wondered what is being done there.

Working with Waka Kotahi and treaty partners Hōkai Nuku we have commenced a tree removal operation with a twist. The area the trees are being removed from is a historic pā site associated with Te Hēmara Tauhia of Ngāti Whatua.

Completing these operations with the crane means that the large trees that require removal can be done safely, due to the cultural significance of the area and the fact that there are live traffic lanes on either side of the pā site.



450t crane lifting trees from the Southern End of the project

With Hibiscus Coast Highway so close to the work site there is stop/go management in place when the works are happening to ensure everyone's safety. We appreciate local travellers' patience as we work to have this operation complete as quickly and safely as possible.

## Out and About in the Community

After a couple of years of limited face to face contact, a key highlight for our Stakeholder and Communications Team in 2022 were the many opportunities that got us out and about in the community, celebrating your causes, sharing the story of the project, what we have done so far and explaining works that were yet to come.

Our Project Director Robert Jones was invited to be a guest judge at the Warkworth Santa Parade and the Public Open Day saw many of our local neighbours and stakeholders get to see the motorway in person with lots of information shared and questions answered. We sponsored Warkworth School in their Walk-a-thon and ran a school holiday activity for local children to design a bat roosting box and come to site to paint their design on pre-made boxes.

On top of these events, we kept busy with regular project update presentations at local community lead groups and at our own project liaison groups.

As we track towards the opening of the motorway, we are planning to hold community drop-in sessions for our neighbours and those who are interested to come and see the project team and ask questions. Keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for more information on when these drop-in sessions will be happening.



Warkworth School Walk-a-thon



Project Open Day October 2022

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