

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



Winter planting underway

As other parts of the project tend to slow down over the wetter winter months, our landscaping team will be working hard to make sure we plant as much as we can throughout the season.

Planting is carried out in winter when the ground is wet, and plants are largely dormant to let them get used to their new environment before the summer.

This season we have 650,000 plants to go into the ground, predominantly stage one 'nursery crop' species such as manuka and kanuka

which create a shaded environment for future plants like kauri and totara.

The planting is taking place on motorway batters, the areas between the road and designation boundary, and permanent stormwater ponds.

It can be a challenge accessing some of these sites and transporting plants to them.

Planting is already a physically demanding job so anything which makes life easier for our hard-working planting crews is always welcome.

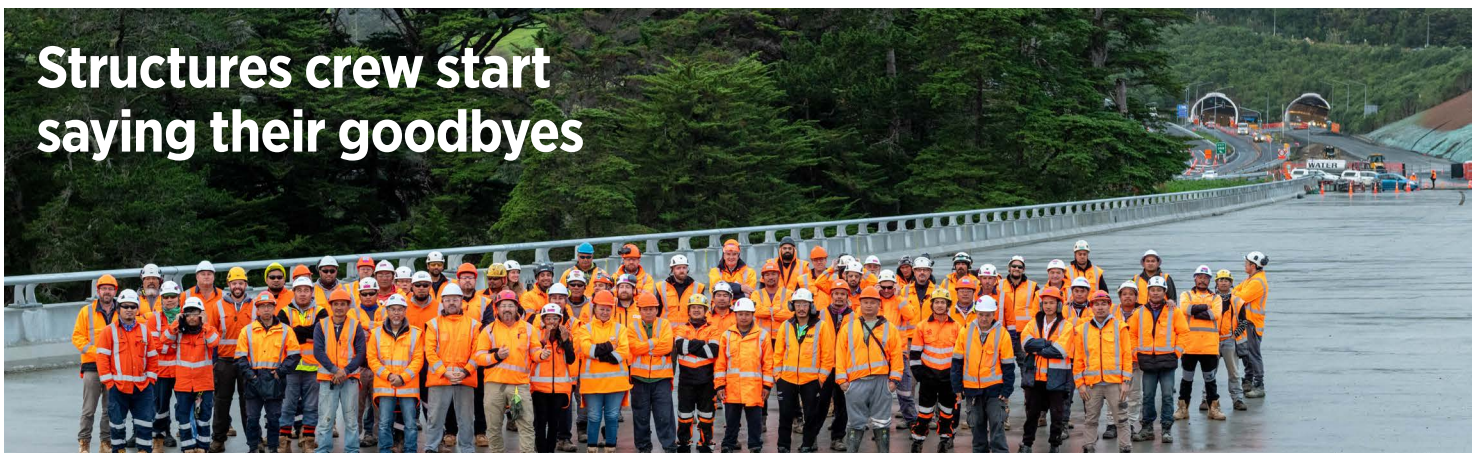
Working together with our subcontractor Kauri

Park, our landscaping team have come up with an innovative way to safely and quickly transport plants through a conveyer system.

They have been trialling the system at one of the large batters near Pūhoi, where they need to plant more than 31,000 plants.

So far the trial has been a success, reducing the need for crews to walk up and down batters and allowing us to make a great start on our planting.

To watch a video of the conveyer at work, [CLICK HERE](#) or check our Facebook and YouTube.

Structures crew start
saying their goodbyes

With our bridges and viaducts nearing completion, the project's structures crew took the opportunity to meet on top of Arawhiti ki Ōkahu (the viaduct over Ōkahu Inlet) recently for a group shot, before they begin heading off to other jobs. They have done amazing work in building these impressive structures.

Changes coming at connections

Part of the new motorway will open to traffic for the first time from October, when road users will start travelling across the large viaduct north of the Johnstones Hill Tunnels.

A series of road layout changes are scheduled to take place on State Highway 1 in October north of the Johnstones Hill Tunnels, at Pūhoi and in Warkworth.

The most noticeable change for motorists will be when they start driving over Arawhiti ki Ōkahu (the viaduct over Ōkahu Inlet) and part of the new motorway. Northbound motorists will merge onto the viaduct after the Johnstones Hill Tunnels and exit at Pūhoi (before the second large viaduct, Arawhiti ki Pūhoi). Southbound motorists will drive the same route in reverse.

During October motorists will also notice work ramping up at the northern end of the motorway where it meets SH1 just north of Warkworth. Road layout changes will also be in place here when we start construction of Pukerito (the new roundabout).

Recently our drone surveyor captured this



great shot (above) of the work happening in the north. It shows the future location of the Pukerito roundabout, with Warkworth and the Matakana Link Road (being constructed by Auckland Transport) to the east.

Pukerito will be an important landmark, particularly to the residents of Warkworth and to travellers heading to and from Matakana, Whangarei and the Far North.

The name Pukerito was gifted to the project by Hōkai Nuku. It can be translated as 'middle

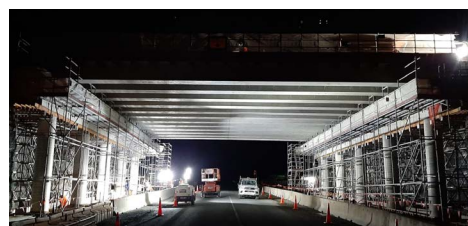
hill' and signifies the general area as a gully between two hills.

The multi-lane roundabout will have three exit points: north-bound (onto existing SH1), east-bound (towards Warkworth) and south-bound (entering the new motorway). Each exit point will have a slip-lane for traffic turning left.

We will bring you more information on these road layout changes over the coming months, so keep an eye on our Facebook page, website, newsletters and local media.



Have you spotted our paving machine out and about? Even if you haven't seen the paver itself you may have noticed the clouds of steam it produces, especially during the cooler mornings we've been experiencing lately. The steam is a result of the extreme temperatures of the hot mix asphalt hitting the cold air – the colder the morning, the bigger the cloud!



WOODCOCKS CLOSURES

Intermittent overnight closures are planned for Woodcocks Road between now and 15 July, to allow us to carry out works on Woodcocks Road Bridge. Sign-posted detours will be in place during closures.

The work will take place at night between 8pm and 5am. Dates are weather dependent and the road will remain open if works cannot be undertaken. We will update neighbours if a closure is not required.

For more information see our website and Facebook page or [CLICK HERE](#).

PŪHOI STOP/GO

Stop/Go traffic management is continuing at Pūhoi Road intersection over the coming weeks.

Thank you for your continued patience and co-operation as we undertake these important works.



Mahurangi Stream diversion

The Mahurangi Stream was successfully diverted to its new permanent location in May. The original stream ran where the north abutment of the Mahurangi Bridge now sits. A temporary diversion was built in January 2019, however a permanent diversion needed to be built complete with a sweeping bend to direct the stream under the new bridge. The stream is located in one of the more ecologically and culturally significant areas of the project and is home to freshwater crayfish (kōura). It needed to be diverted and its bed regenerated with little disturbance to the downstream environment. Root wads and rock riffles were placed in the channel to help aquatic life flourish and planting helped to protect the stability of the stream banks. Hōkai Nuku kaitiaki and project ecologists watched over the works during the stream bed excavation, and several freshwater crayfish and eels were re-located.



Wagstaff family's big adventure

In April we hosted a local family on a site visit after they won the One Mahurangi 2020 Christmas Selfie Competition. We asked the Wagstaff family to share their thoughts on the trip, here's what they had to say:

“What an amazing experience. The adults enjoyed seeing the scale of change and huge effort that has gone into the road. It's very apparent the number of people employed when you travel around the site. The geology and shapes that are visible in the massive cuts were amazing. The kids really enjoyed seeing all the machines and also hearing and reading about the various animals that have been found and re-homed. Thank you for the adventure.”



Our June project flyover is available on our YouTube channel and Facebook pages, or watch now by clicking the image above.

Emergency accesses

We've received a few questions from the public about how emergency services will access the new motorway once it opens.

Emergency services will be able to access the motorway through dedicated emergency access points at several locations including at the northern end of Arawhiti ki Pūhoi (the viaduct over Pūhoi River) and at Perry Road.

There will also be regular areas throughout the motorway where controlled U-turns can be carried out by emergency vehicles.

These crossovers offer a safe and open pathway for emergency vehicles through the wire rope safety barrier.

If needed, the wire rope can also be dropped in sections to allow traffic to be diverted onto the opposing side.

Turning old trees into opportunities

Occasionally there are trees on the project that need to be removed for reasons including safety or access.

Some of these trees become homes for native animals, while others are protected for cultural reasons. One or two have been reused as pony club hurdles – and some of them may be heating your home this winter, while also helping improve the lives of local young people.

Springboard is a local group which works with young people (aged 8 to 24) in Mahurangi, helping them to achieve positive outcomes in their lives.

Around 10 years ago, Springboard started a firewood fundraiser with some of the young people they work with.

This eventually grew into a social enterprise which today produces around \$60,000 of firewood annually and helps young people learn both work and life skills.

They take these skills on to jobs as arborists or in farming and fencing, and one of those who went through the programme is now employed full-time to run the enterprise.

Springboard has an arrangement with Treescape, a company who takes care of a lot of the vegetation on the project.

This includes the removal of trees such as these pines which needed to be cut down in the central south of the project.

“Treescape has been a great supporter of us since the beginning, they are always dropping off wood for us,” says Springboard Managing Director Gary Diprose.

“We’re very dependent on the raw product coming in and we were running pretty shy there for a while so getting this pine was great, we’re ahead of the game now.

“What I love about this story is it’s people working together to have an outcome that’s greater than just firewood. At the end of the day we want to be an investor into people’s lives rather than a firewood processing plant.”

You can find Springboard firewood at Mitre 10 stores, including in Warkworth. Keep an eye out for the Springboard label.

For more information about Springboard see www.springboard.org.nz



Springboard Managing Director Gary Diprose with wood from the project.

Young engineers achieving big

Young engineers are achieving big things on the Ara Tūhono – Pūhoi to Warkworth project, where they’re being given the chance to cut their teeth on a range of disciplines.

While taking the lead on numerous jobs, improving processes and showing great commitment to health and safety, they’ve also been enjoying the opportunities offered by working on a major infrastructure project which will have a lasting impact on Kiwis’ lives.

Seven of the project team’s engineers were recently promoted to more senior roles following excellent all-round performances.

They include Sam Loveday and Vinay Reddy Gaddampalli, who started with the project as graduates and were recently promoted to Site Engineers. Site Engineers Kristan Dantas, Girish Sakthivel, Vick Arumugam and Pranav Baru have all taken on Senior Site Engineer roles; and Jackson Clark has been promoted to Project Engineer.

“There are very few projects like this in New Zealand,” says Kristan, who was recently named Young Engineer of the Year in the Civil Contracting NZ Auckland Excellence Awards.

“You’ll rarely get to experience challenges of this scale as a contract engineer, trying to manage a range of complexities such as the ground conditions, the weather, and access.

“It’s also a project of huge national significance so it’s awesome to know I’m helping to make a difference to people’s lives



Site Engineer Vinay Reddy Gaddampalli, Senior Site Engineer Girish Sakthivel, Senior Site Engineer Pranav Baru, Project Engineer Jackson Clark, Project Director Robert Jones, Senior Site Engineer Kristan Dantas and Site Engineer Sam Loveday.

through my work.”

The young engineers say they’ve also enjoyed the chance to work with a large and diverse team.

“This has not only made for a vibrant work environment but means you are constantly challenged to think differently and appropriately react to situations,” says Jackson, who joined the project in 2017.

“I look forward to continuing to go full steam with the team to get the motorway open next year.”



Kristan Dantas accepts the Young Engineer of the Year award in the Civil Contracting NZ Auckland Excellence Awards.

Latest progress photos



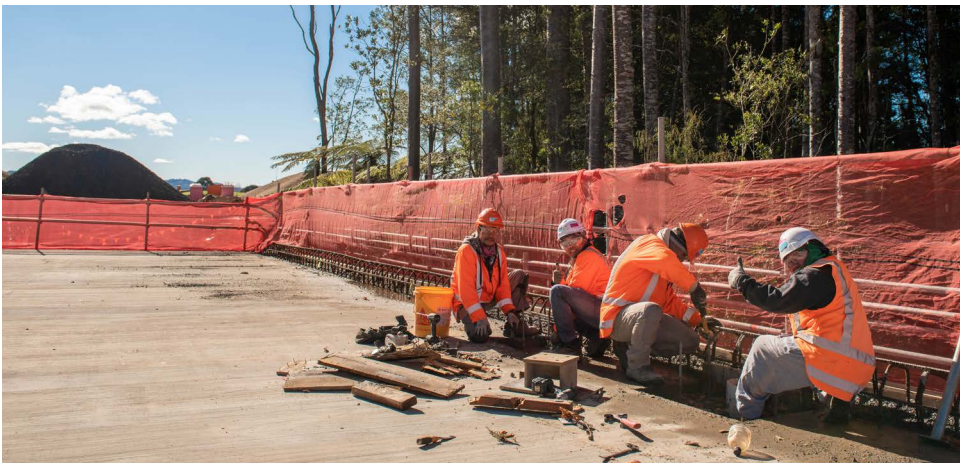
Big cuts in the central north of the project.



Stabilised slopes.



Panoramic view of Arawhiti Pua Ngahere (the viaduct which passes through a Kauri forest).



Structures crew at work on Arawhiti Pua Ngahere (the viaduct which passes through a Kauri forest).



Geotechnical team at work.



One of our site gatekeepers - very important people!



Fresh asphalt near Wyllie Road.



Happy at work.

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