

How we protect the environment

Environmental management plan

The Tauranga Eastern Link has a specific environmental management plan. Building a new road, especially one as big as the Tauranga Eastern Link, always has an impact on the environment. The NZ Transport Agency and the contractor, the Fulton Hogan HEB Construction Alliance, have worked to minimise the impacts.

Dust control

A dust mitigation plan was established to minimise the effects of dust. This included:

- the contractors paying special attention in areas that were sensitive to dust (eg urban areas, close to housing, crops)
- establishing vegetation as soon as possible over exposed areas
- using a variety of dust suppression methods including the use of water trucks
- monitoring vehicle movements and speeds.

Flora and fauna

There has been careful consideration to the native wildlife and habitats along the route to ensure minimal impact and disruption. This included:

- choosing the route which minimised the impact to native vegetation and habitats
- linking new native planting with existing stands of kahikatea. Planting mitigates the visual effects of intersections and structures
- working within the Kaituna River area was undertaken outside fish migration periods and the Kaituna River bridge was constructed 'stopbank to stopbank' to avoid disruption to river edge habitat
- restoring and rehabilitating the Kaituna River northern oxbow and re-establishing it to its natural state
- landscaping the Kaituna Wildlife Management Reserve noise bund so new native planting links with the existing native fauna, reducing noise and visual effects to the reserve
- culverts that allow the passage of fish
- planting approximately 300,000 native plants.

Erosion, sediment and stormwater

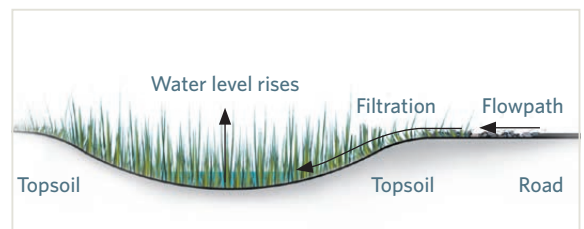
During construction the following methods have been used to minimise effects on the environment:

- an erosion and sediment control plan including measures such as sediment ponds, silt fences, run on/off diversion channels, monitoring, maintenance and site rehabilitation
- use of culverts and swales for stormwater drainage. Swales are planted to filter contaminants and therefore treat the stormwater.

Environmental and social well-being of New Zealand

The Transport Agency is committed to improving the contribution state highways make to the environmental and social well-being of New Zealand by:

- protecting and enhancing the environment where appropriate
- using and managing resources efficiently
- considering environmental issues early
- contributing to sustainable outcomes by working with others
- continually improving environmental performance.



Cross section of a swale - a swale is a drain that filters contaminants.



An example of a swale.

Noise and vibration

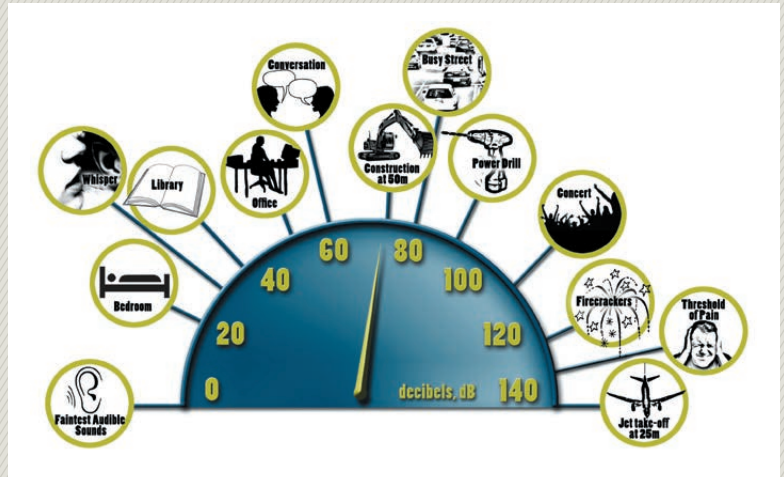
Construction noise and vibration complies with all Transport Agency guidelines and the New Zealand construction standard.

During construction the following measures have been put in place:

- noise and vibration monitored and affected parties notified of any particularly noisy construction activity
- construction traffic kept away from main roads and sensitive residential areas where practicable.

Upon completion the TEL will provide:

- landscaped buffer zones and noise barriers to screen sensitive areas such as houses, and to protect the Lower Kaituna Wildlife Management Reserve
- low-noise road surfacing will be used in sensitive areas along the route.



This diagram shows typical noise levels for various situations and activities.

Cultural heritage and archaeology

The Tauranga Eastern Link passes through locations rich in cultural history. To protect this history the following measures have been introduced:

- a protocol agreement and relationship with six local iwi and hapu (Nga Potiki, Ngati He, Ngati Pukenga, Waitaha-a-hei, Tapuika, Ngati Whakau ki Maketu) who form the Tauranga Eastern Link Tangata Whenua Advisory Group (TELTWAG)
- cultural heritage monitors from TELTWAG iwi and hapu have been engaged to observe and monitor specific earthwork activities in areas that have been identified as potentially containing items of cultural significance
- an on-site archaeologist to ensure correct processes are followed under the Historic Places Act.

Social impacts

The Transport Agency has carefully considered the social impact of the Tauranga Eastern Link. To minimise effects and disturbances, and improve public awareness about the project, the Transport Agency is:

- maintaining a comprehensive stakeholder and community information programme to ensure the project is designed and constructed with input from key stakeholders, tangata whenua, interested groups and the wider community

- publishing regular updates about the project and construction progress
- hosting public open days and information displays at public venues
- conducting presentations and briefings for community and industry groups
- working closely with key stakeholders
- contributing to the Kaituna Drainage Scheme's capital and maintenance costs administered by the Bay of Plenty Regional Council
- providing a free phone number for people to alert the Transport Agency staff to their public health or environmental concerns.



For more information

