



2 Dowse to Petone - D2P Update

DECEMBER 2008

Project progress

Summer weather forecast means the outlook for the Dowse to Petone Upgrade Project construction is fine.



This aerial photo shows the extent of progress at the Dowse interchange

The fine start to spring significantly aided progress on D2P and with the recent run of sunny days it looks like summer will follow suit.

Since the update in our last newsletter the bridge structures at Dowse Interchange are complete, with the exception of the staircase that allows pedestrians to travel directly from the Dowse Interchange to the west of Hutt Road without walking down the ramp. The focus in this area is now on finishing the Mechanically Stabilised Earth (MSE) walls adjacent to the railway line, which will form the on- and off-ramps between the Dowse Interchange structure itself and SH2. Following the completion of the MSE walls, the road construction crew will move in to the area to start building the pavement (road).

Further south on SH2, the second span of the Korokoro Bridge is in place and the MSE wall on the western side of the bridge is gaining height. With the demolition of J-Block finally complete we have been able to progress the

construction of Mackenzie Avenue Bridge. Motorists driving past this area will see that the second half of this bridge, which allows access to and from the Park 'n' Ride car Park, was lifted into place early in November.

In the same way that a lot of the earth that has been 'cut' away on the project has been used to 'fill' other areas we are re-cycling much of the remaining concrete rubble from the demolition of J-Block. This will be crushed and processed on site and re-used as fill in the MSE wall being built at Korokoro.

The roundabout on Hutt Road is fast taking shape, and the MSE wall that leads up to Dowse Interchange is being prepared for paving. Traffic on Hutt Road is currently pushed to the west, and pedestrians are also diverted to that side to allow space for the new road to be constructed. The team is making excellent progress in that area, and locals will be able to see some more, significant changes, once we are back on site in January.



Happy Holidays!

All roadworks on D2P will stop at noon on Friday 19 December and the team will be back on site Monday 5 January 2009. (There may be minor works, including essential road maintenance if necessary, carried out during the Christmas break, but these should not affect traffic.)



This should provide everyone on the project with a well-earned break as well as ensuring holiday traffic is as free-flowing as possible in both directions. However, please note that restricted speed limits will still apply.

We thank you for your patience during the past year and all at D2P wish you a safe journey, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Future Work

- MSE wall at Dowse Interchange adjacent to railway will reach full height
- Road construction will start at Dowse Interchange structure
- Hutt Road Roundabout will be completed
- Hutt Road pavement reconstruction, along with kerb and footpath shaping, will begin
- Final span of Korokoro Bridge will be lifted into place
- Construction of MSE wall on car park side of MacKenzie Ave Bridge will begin

Did you know?

The D2P Project is not all about 'hard' engineering like bridges and roads. We have approximately 23,000m² of landscaping to complete around the project.

Before any new planting is carried out the various areas will be prepared which may include all or some of the following:

- The removal of damaged or dead tree limbs and dead or dying plants
- The hand-clearing of weeds such as Gorse and Broom
- The pruning or removal of vegetation to rejuvenate and stimulate new plant growth and/or to maintain safe sightlines
- The reshaping of the ground and sub-soil and laying of new topsoil and grass seed

More than 23,000 native plants ranging from Manuka, Rimu, and Totara, to Kowhai, Flax and Toetoe will be planted with the landscaping costs for the project totalling approximately \$600,000.

Percy Scenic Reserve - The Jewel in the Crown

Percy Scenic Reserve is having a makeover as a result of the D2P Project.

Hutt City Council (HCC) is taking this opportunity to upgrade many of the Reserve's on-site facilities and HCC Horticultural Manager Judy Robb is enthusiastic about the changes being made.

"Originally the old glass houses and nursery buildings were going to be demolished but we have been able to work with NZTA and Fletcher Higgins Joint Venture (FHJV) to retain them."

"The HCC funded refurbishment of these buildings should be complete about the same time that the Dowse Interchange will be in action so it is perfect timing."

Percy Scenic Reserve, named after the Percy Family who originally owned the estate, is Crown land under the jurisdiction of the Department of Conservation and leased to HCC who is responsible for its care and maintenance. The term 'Scenic Reserve' is the highest classification of protection that can be

given to land in New Zealand and is an indication of the importance of the plant collection held there.

Collection Manager Jill Broome is responsible for the day-to-day management of the rare and endangered species propagated and nurtured in the Reserve. The collection is acknowledged as one of New Zealand's finest with many of the rare species under protection having been collected and saved from all corners of the country.

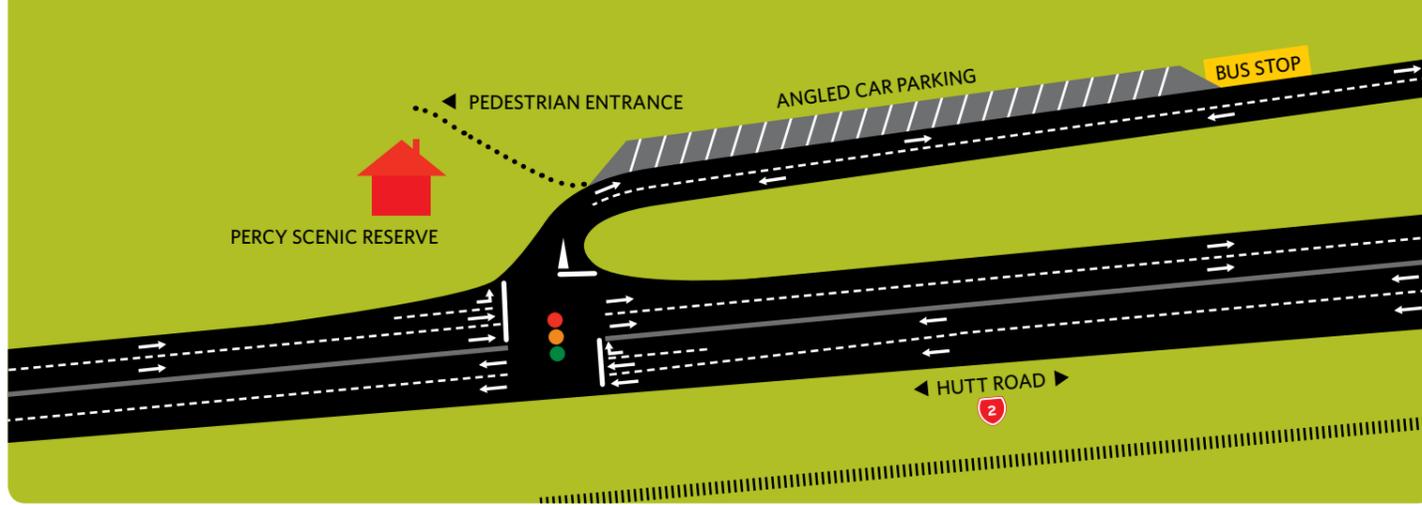
Once the refurbishment works are complete many of these collections will be on public display for the first time - until now they have only been available for viewing twice a year under very strict supervision.

As part of the D2P project, work is also being done to renovate the Ratanui tracks which run through Percy Scenic Reserve and the adjacent land which once belonged to the renowned scientist Sir James Hector. This will give improved access to many parts of the Reserve.



There are many resting stops through Percy Scenic Reserve such as this great spot by the pond.

TEMPORARY CARPARK LAYOUT



Percy Scenic Reserve New Access and Car Park

Vehicle access to 'Percy's', as it is fondly called locally, has always been directly off the southbound lanes of SH2 just beyond the Korokoro intersection. One of the major changes being made is that visitors will be able to park in a purpose built car park that is accessed from both directions off SH2 at the new Dowse Interchange.

When the D2P project is complete the new car park will have areas designated for larger buses and tour coaches making the Reserve much more accessible for larger groups travelling from all over the country.

KidZone

There's a heck of lot to Hector

Have you heard of Hector's Dolphin? It was named by Sir James Hector - one of New Zealand's most famous scientists.

Born in Scotland, James Hector was an explorer and scientist who travelled the globe in search of new discoveries and information about the world we live in.

He is responsible for setting up some of our first museums, including the Colonial Museum (now Te Papa, which still holds many of his original collections) as well as Wellington's Botanical Garden.

HCC Horticultural Manager Judy Robb tells us that Sir James was also responsible for the extensive planting and cultivation of the Monterey Pine (Pinus Radiata) in New Zealand. There are many examples of this tree and other members of the Pine family in Percy Scenic Reserve and the Botanical Garden.

Want to find out more about Sir James Hector? Visit Te Papa's website <http://collections.tepapa.govt.nz/exhibitions/JamesHector/>

In New Zealand we often use Pine trees at Christmas.

Can you see which tinsel trail leads to the star at the top of the D2P tree?



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