

ENHANCING THE MĀNGERE INLET

The East West Link is a new four lane arterial road proposed to run between State Highway 20 in Onehunga and State Highway 1 in Mt Wellington, and includes widening the motorway between Mt Wellington and Princes Street. There will also be new local road connections as well as new and upgraded walking and cycling paths.

In building the East West Link, we have a unique opportunity to deliver an integrated design that improves transport connections while also rehabilitating the coastal environment for future generations to enjoy.

The Onehunga-Penrose area is one of the key economic drivers of Auckland - it is the main industrial, transport and distribution hub for the city and the upper North Island. Yet its long history as a commercial centre has taken its toll on the Māngere Inlet. Decades of degradation has damaged the natural character, ecology and water quality of the area.

A large number of contaminated sites, including landfills, are the result of a range of historic and current hazardous activities and industries in the area - including freezing works, railway workshops, chemical and fertiliser companies. The originally indented shoreline has also been extensively reclaimed over the past 70 years, often by landfill. This has created the straight shoreline with a rocky edge that you see today.

Many of the landfills contain contaminated groundwater, also known as leachate. With insufficient barriers between the landfills and the harbour, this groundwater continues to enter the Māngere Inlet as it has done for decades.

With the East West Link development, the NZ Transport Agency on behalf of the Government is taking the opportunity to rehabilitate and enhance the natural character of the Māngere Inlet in a number of ways.

The road has been designed to act as a contamination containment bund (embankment), forming a barrier to stop the leachate and other contaminants from the landfills entering the inlet, while further treatment of contaminants and stormwater is provided through new wetlands.

It is usual Transport Agency practice to capture and treat the stormwater run-off from new roads. However, with the East West Link project, run-off from the wider Onehunga-Penrose catchment as well as from surrounding roads that are being upgraded will be captured and treated to the standard required by Auckland Council - a total area of around 657 hectares.

Once within the wetland, the water will be treated through an innovative biofiltration system, which means the stormwater finally entering the inlet will be better quality, improving the overall health of the harbour.

A big focus of the design has been to create a more natural coastal edge along the foreshore and provide a recreational coastal path with open spaces and headlands. This will provide a great environment for walkers and cyclists, improve the connection to the water and maximise views. With 16km of new paths, there will be a direct walking and cycling link from Onehunga to Sylvia Park for the first time.

New planting and landscaping throughout the project will improve green corridor links across the Auckland isthmus. Signage and design features integrated with the planting will recognise and celebrate the cultural, historic and geological values of the area.

The Transport Agency is working to make the Onehunga-Penrose area accessible, safer and more pleasant. By removing trucks and through traffic from the overcrowded local roads, connecting communities and improving access to the Manukau Harbour, we can provide a healthier and more natural environment for generations to come.

OUR CONTACT DETAILS

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MĀNGERE INLET CONCEPT

COASTAL PLANTING



WETLAND PLANTING



HIGHWAY CORRIDOR



① Boardwalk

② 3m cycle lane +
1.8m walking lane

③ EWL Westbound

④ EWL Eastbound

⑤ 1.8m Footpath