

Huntly project update

October 2017



A view of the Huntly works from north to south

Hoping for a long dry summer

Heading to the halfway stage in the 15km Huntly section of the Waikato Expressway, the project team is hoping for some dry weather to finish earthworks.

Over the past two earthworks seasons (running from October to May) about 2.2 million cubic metres have been moved, with 1.3 million cubic metres left this season ahead of pavement works starting next year.

"This spring represents the halfway point time-wise for us as we look to open the four-lane road in 2020," says NZ Transport Agency Portfolio Manager Peter Simcock.

"The rain last earthworks season and then a wet winter has added to the challenges of this unique project but we are gearing up for a big effort this season to finish off the earthworks, press on with the bridge work, and then start on the pavement work."

Three sub-contractors C&R Developments, Twomey Construction and Waiiau Pa Bulk Haulage are back with the big gear to help achieve a successful season.

Despite some unusually high water levels over winter we have continued to make good progress on the bridge programme. Two of the nine bridges are already completed and open to construction traffic - that's the Mangawara and Whangamarie Stream bridges - while five other bridges are currently in construction.



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An aerial view of what's happening



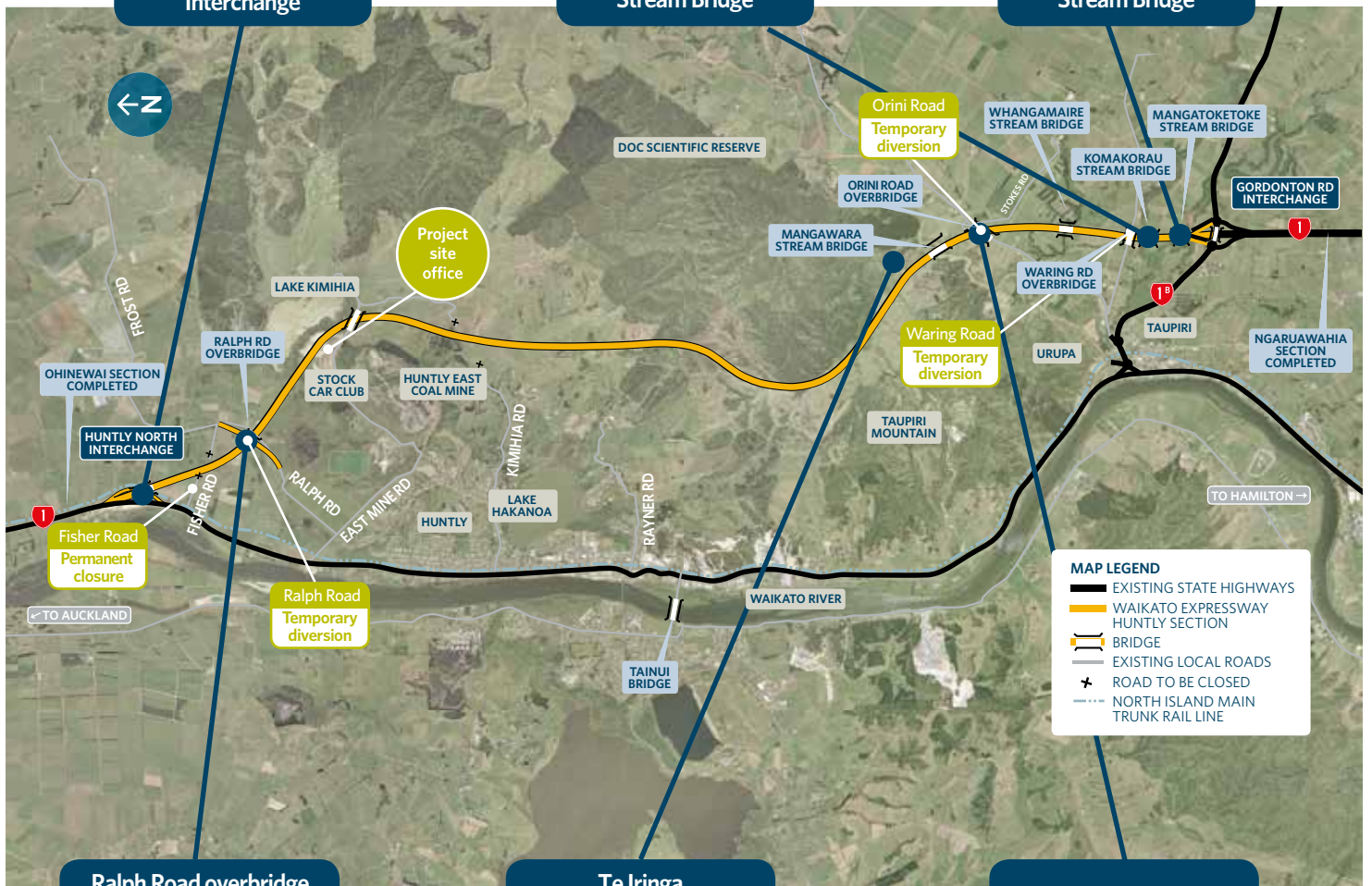
Huntly Northern Interchange



Komakorau Stream Bridge



Mangatoketoke Stream Bridge



Ralph Road overbridge and temporary diversion

Te Iringa lagoon planting

Orini Road overbridge



Bridges needed for local roads and streams

Bridge building is a big part of the \$409 million four-lane expressway section between the Ohinewai and Ngaruawahia sections. Here's a summary from north to south.

NORTHERN INTERCHANGE RAIL BRIDGE

The Northern interchange includes taking the expressway over the Main Truck Railway Line. The MSE walls are in place and construction has started on the future north-bound on-ramp, with a large concrete block retaining wall under construction.

RALPH ROAD BRIDGE

Tie-in work at the Ralph Road bridge, which takes traffic over the expressway, is likely to finish later this year. This will be the first of the nine bridges open to local traffic. The new Ralph Road alignment will be completed in 2018.

MCVIE ROAD OVERBRIDGE

The McVie Road overbridge MSE wall construction is to start later this year.

MANGAWARA STREAM BRIDGE

The Mangawara Stream expressway bridge, the first bridge to get started, is now open to construction traffic.

ORINI ROAD

At nearby Orini Road work will start next year on the MSE walls for the overbridge.

WHANGAMAIRE STREAM BRIDGE

The southern end of the Huntly project crosses lowland streams and progress is easy to see from the nearby roads. The Whangamairie Stream bridge is now finished and open to construction traffic.

KOMAKORAU STREAM BRIDGE

Bridge beams have been going on the Komakorau Stream bridge this month. Construction has also started on the MSE walls for the Waring Road overbridge, which will continue over the next few months.

With a 30-metre span the Komakorau bridge has pre-cast concrete beams, while structural steel is required on the longer bridges of the Mangawara (50m), Whangamairie (40m) and Mangatoketoke (42.5m) bridges.



The beams were put in place on the Komakorau Stream bring during October.

MANGATOKETOKE STREAM BRIDGE

The Mangatoketoke Stream bridge project required extensive ground improvements. The beams should be in place later this year.

Going the extra mile for the environment

The Huntly project team were very pleased their environmental work has been recognised again, picking up another Waikato Regional Council award for Large Sites Erosion and Sediment Control.

The award was in recognition of "the proactive approach and exceeding best practice on the largest earthworks project in the Waikato region", council said.

The site currently has 33 sediment retention ponds, more than 150 decanting earthbunds and continues to maintain these devices and more than 60km of bunds to ensure that stormwater quality leaving the site meets environmental and designation requirements.

The site was also a finalist for environmental initiatives for a mudfish habitat improvement project, for "identifying and going above and beyond in the protection of the threatened black mudfish".

The identification of the mudfish habitat, and then the protection by way of fencing and planting of a farm drain, was taken on board by the whole project team resulting in an exceptionally well protected area. The work was outside the scope of the project and done mainly by volunteers.

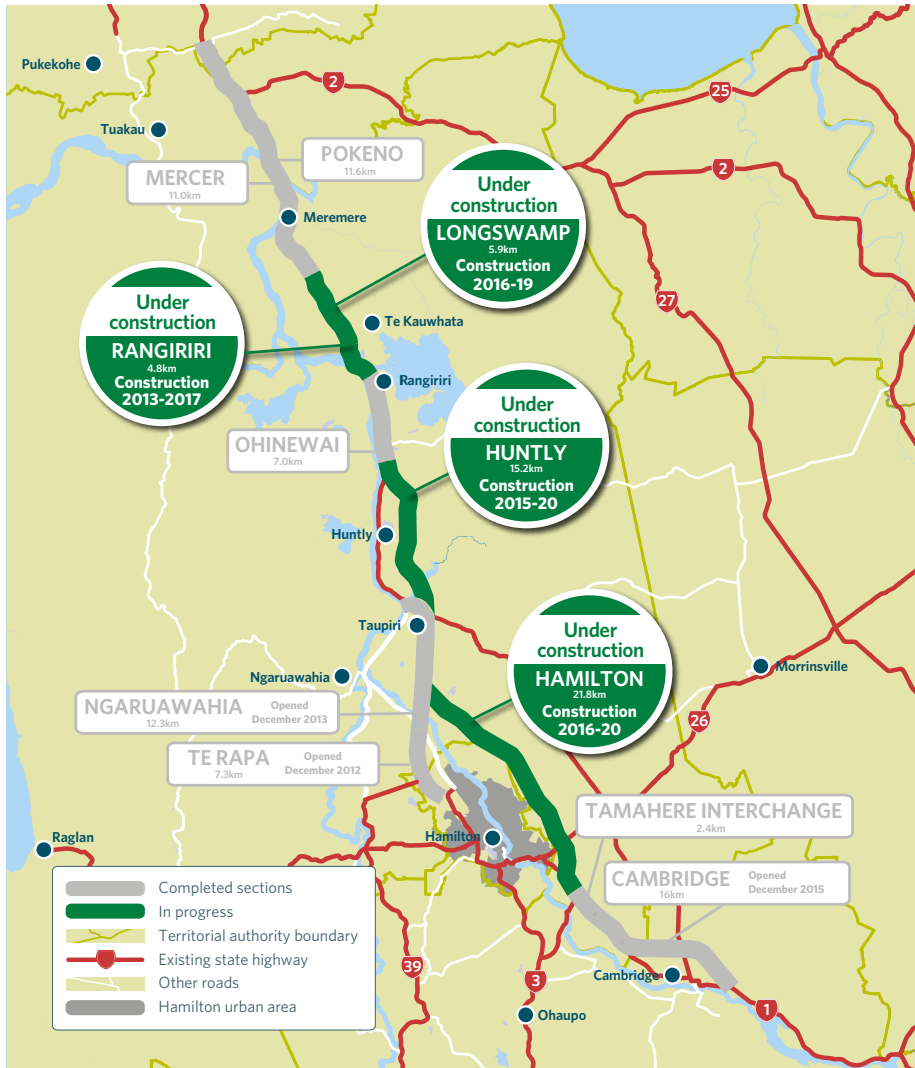
Signs will be installed at a later date at the site detailing the mudfish habitat and mitigation planting.



Volunteers helped with planting after the area was fenced

Expressway overview

The Waikato Expressway is one of the Government's seven Roads of National Significance. It will improve safety and reliability, and reduce travel times and congestion on State Highway 1 by delivering a four-lane highway from the Bombay Hills to south of Cambridge. The Expressway is being built in seven sections.



STAFF PROFILE

Stakeholder Liaison Manager Lorraine Dunmall



With the departure of Trish Viall, who is heading home to Auckland, Lorraine has taken on the role of Stakeholder Liaison Manager.

Lorraine has worked for local and regional councils since 2000, in various roles from customer services, to environmental monitoring, with the last few years overseeing earthworks projects and compliance at Waikato Regional Council.

"I am a local of Ngaruawahia and have been very interested in this project since it was first designated many years ago," says Lorraine.

"This role is a change in direction for me and I am very much enjoying the personal interactions and challenges.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for me to learn more about the construction industry and the relationships with key stakeholders as the project moves forward towards completion over the next two years."

Outside of work, Lorraine enjoys spending time with family, horse riding and is a volunteer fire fighter at the Ngaruawahia brigade.

Did you know?

More than 150 machines operating during earthworks season

130,000-plus plants have been planted around Lake Kimihia, 250,000-plus for whole project to date (1.2 million plants at completion)

Red Rivers riparian planting is ongoing - 65000 linear metres completed

Pest eradication continues at the Taupiri reserve, Te Iringa lagoon and covenanted bush areas



Information

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