

SH20 Manukau Extension

Linking SH1 and SH20



Project Update
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These Australian green frogs are very grateful for Kiwi hospitality

SH20 Manukau Extension team helps save stream's wildlife

The SH20 Manukau Extension team joined forces with a local ecologist to help out some aquatic friends recently. A stretch of the Puhinui stream is being temporarily diverted as part of the construction of the SH20 Manukau Extension.

Paul Woodard, a specialist in freshwater fisheries, together with the project team, netted fish and other species from the stretch of the stream being diverted.

Diverting and draining this section of the stream will enable an eco-culvert to be built under the future route of the motorway. Once built, the eco-culvert will enable the stream to continue on its original path.

Paul netted a range of native species over two days.

As well as native fauna, some Australian green frogs were also found. The amphibian immigrants had made the Puhinui stream their home and had raised a sizeable brood of tadpoles. As non-native fauna, they could not be released back into the wild, so Paul found them a home in his aquarium.

Teaming with life

Paul explains that it often surprises people how much life there is in urban creeks such as the Puhinui Stream. "The assumption is that there is not a lot there, but in actual fact it's quite the reverse."

Once caught, the animals were taken a short distance downstream where the native species were released back into the water.

Rebecca White, the project's Environmental Manager was happy to help the various critters. "It's very important to the project that we minimise the impact we may have on our environment," she says.

Great effort is taken to prevent the sensitive ecology of the Puhinui Stream being damaged by either man made pollutants or by soil being washed off the site by rain.

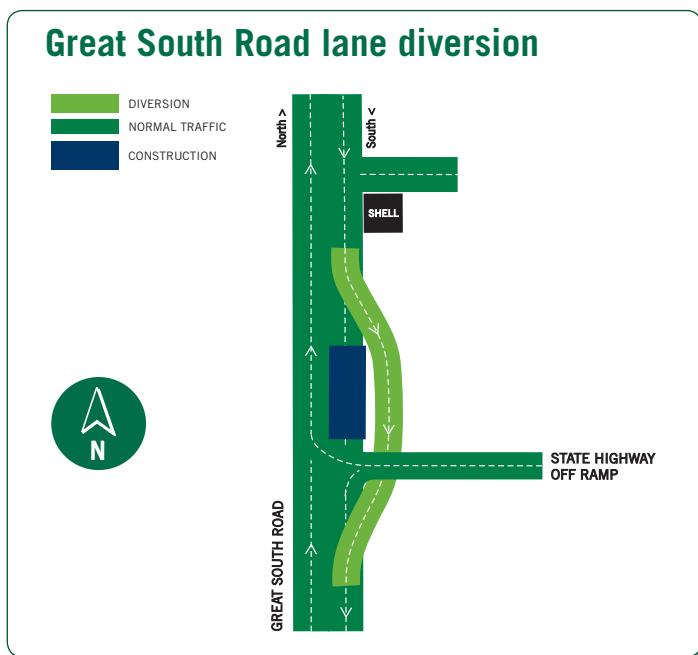
New bridges

The project is running smoothly and on time. Over the next few months work crews will be beginning to build the bridges that will take Great South Road and Wiri Station Road over the SH20 Manukau Extension. The work program has been carefully designed so that its effect on traffic flow is minimal.

Upcoming diversions include:-

Wiri Station Road - Westbound lanes narrowing.

Great South Road - South bound lane diversions south of Rainbow's End.



New 0800 number

To help motorists and the local community, Transit and Leighton Works have established a new free phonenumber.

0800 SH 20 – 2 – 1

(0800 742 021)

For more information about what road works are coming up check the project's website;

www.transit.govt.nz/projects/manukauextension/

and don't forget to listen out for Transit announcements on the radio as well as adverts in the national and local press.

For more information about this project, please contact:

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The new site office in Manukau

Office team arrive on site

Now that the work to build the SH20 Manukau Extension is intensifying, the opening of the site office in Wiri Station Road has arrived at exactly the right time.

The engineers are happy to be working on the Manukau site now. "Everybody working in construction enjoys being on site rather than at a remote office, you feel much more that you are part of this big team," says project manager Steven Knowles.

The new office is situated at 52 Wiri Station Road, next to the new police station.

Earthworks season

The summer is not just cricket season, it's also earthworks season for engineers.

Earthworks can only be done when engineers can be reasonably sure of fine dry weather. Wet soggy soil is very difficult to work with, as anybody who has tried to dig a hole in mud can tell you.

In New Zealand, the challenges for any engineer working with soil are particularly big. Often the soil is very loose and therefore weaker than more compacted soil. In fact, it can be "like building on yoghurt" according to Leighton Works project roading engineer Glenn Houppapa.

The end of the season is 30th April, and engineers hope to be ready to cover the ground for the winter. This involves compressing the ground to strengthen it before the earthworks continue in the spring.

