



Manawatū River

Te Ahu a Turanga: Manawatū Tararua Highway Project Taking Care of Our Environment

New Zealand is home to a variety of native and indigenous animals and plants, but sometimes our state highways need to go through some of these areas.

While we aim to avoid significant effects on these environments, we will unfortunately have an effect on some existing habitat as part of Te Ahu a Turanga: Manawatū Tararua Highway project.

The NZ Transport Agency is committed to working with our communities and partners to make the least impact possible on our sensitive and important ecosystems and the creatures already living in the area - including people!

WHAT HAVE WE DONE SO FAR?

The NZ Transport Agency has commissioned a number of surveys to tell us what exactly is in the area and how the new road may affect the environment.

Some of these surveys have focused specifically on flora, fauna and streams in the area - although there has been other work undertaken which has focused on how this work may affect our communities.

THE NEXT STEPS

The environmental protection of our flora, fauna and streams will be an important part of the design and construction processes.

We will work with our experts, other organisations and our project partners to understand the environment and how we can manage our construction work to either avoid or manage any long term effects.

We will do a detailed investigation of each area to develop our understanding of the specific eco systems and how any effects can be avoided, minimised and/or mitigated.

OUR ANIMALS VS. CONSTRUCTION

The NZ Transport Agency is committed to promoting biodiversity on the state highway network with limited loss of native vegetation, wetlands, critical habitat or endangered species.

Unfortunately, construction of our state highways can also have a negative effect on our native bush and can lead to:

- the potential for wildlife to be hurt or forced to move from where a state highway passes;
- the removal of existing plants and spread of pest species, and
- effects on catchments which can cause restrictions to fish passage.

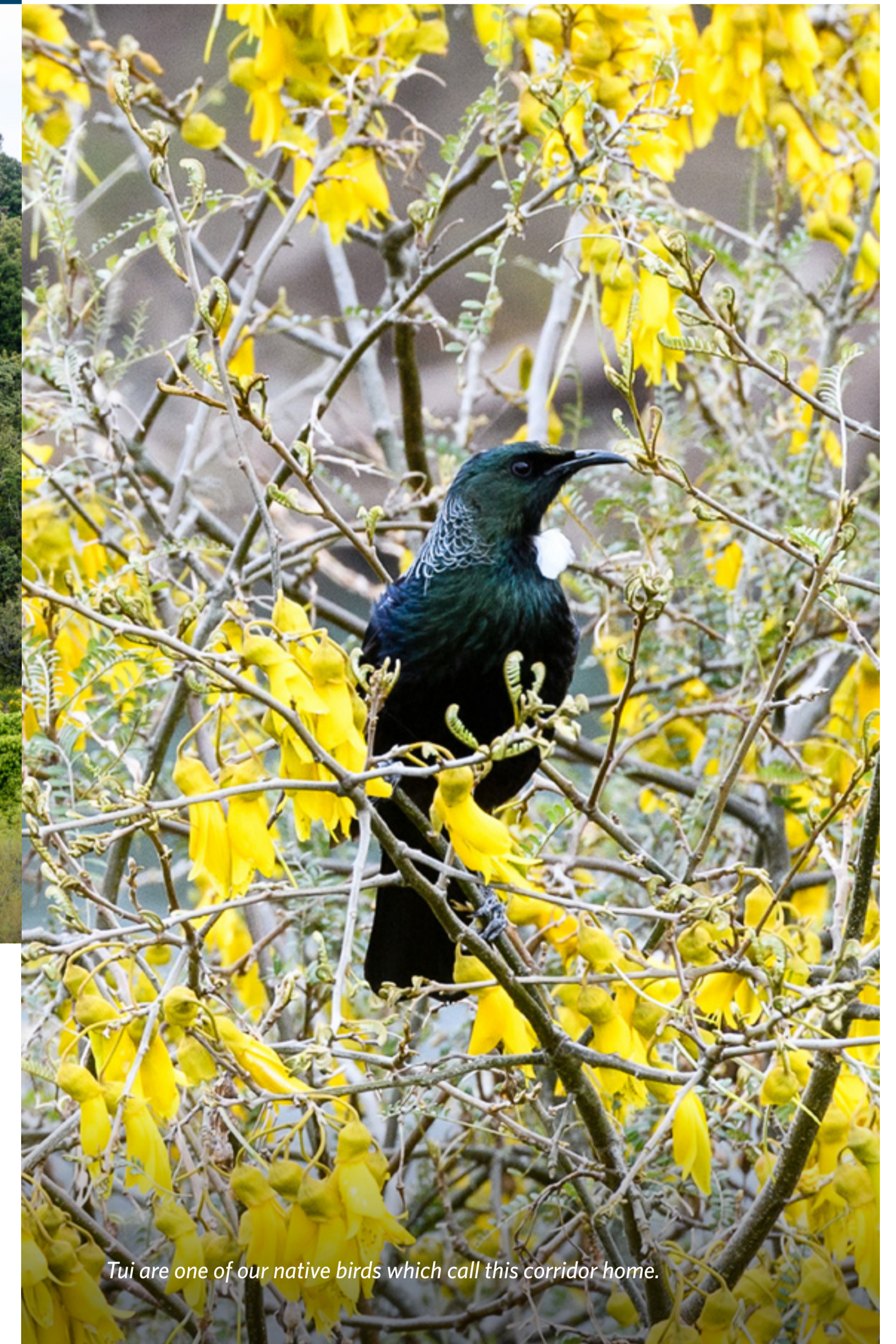
Some of the ways we can help the animals and plants already living there:

- avoid whenever possible, and if we can't avoid then minimise creating as least disruption as possible
- prior to construction complete a full inspection of the areas and if any are found direct transfer to nearby habitat
- like-for-like replacement tree planting
- forest edge buffer planting
- preferential seasonal timing of works

We will develop a design of project that responds to the environmental context, appropriately avoids and minimises effects, which provides an ecological mitigation package to offset losses in biodiversity. We aim to achieve a net bio-diversity gain.



The environment around the Manawatū Gorge includes significant and sensitive areas of native bush and vegetation



Tui are one of our native birds which call this corridor home.

KNOCK, KNOCK

Recent surveys show there are 32 bird species within the proposed Manawatū Gorge realignment corridor - including seven endemic species, ten native species and 15 introduced species. The most notable bird was the New Zealand falcon - which was classified as at risk - and is the country's only extant endemic raptor.