

Transmission Gully Project

A NZ Transport Agency PPP Project



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

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YOU CAN BELIEVE IT

The removal of the 24 kilometres of high-voltage power lines that ran through Transmission Gully have cleared the way for earthworks on the Wellington region's much-awaited new four-lane motorway that will run through the gully.

Dismantling the lines, which formed part of the national grid, was done by Transpower as the final stage of its Paraparaumu substation upgrade and is an exciting and important step in the motorway's five-year construction.

Earthworks and stabilisation trials, which involve cutting into small parts of the terrain, are now underway to test and confirm methodology to support the ultimate transportation of around 6.5 million cubic metres of dirt from cuts to batters and to provide monitoring benchmarks around environmental performance in readiness for the high production bulk earthworks that will follow.

"After decades of conversations the talk is being translated into reality – we're out there doing it."

– Project Director, Mick O'Dwyer.

Inlet Monitoring



Specialist scientific divers from the Bay of Plenty Polytechnic have been undertaking marine surveying of the Pauatahanui inlet gathering sediment samples from ten pre-determined sites to monitor estuarine biota and habitat quality.

Surveys will be undertaken twice yearly during construction and for two years afterwards.

This data will be used to identify any changes during our works as part of our overall environmental monitoring regime.

Site Office Progressing



After a delayed start, progress is being made on establishing the Transmission Gully motorway project site office and compound at Lanes Flat, near Pauatahanui. 29,000 cubic metres of fill have been brought in to help build up the three-hectare site.

Timber piles are being driven to support a number of relocatable portacombs that will provide offices for the around a hundred permanent staff over the five-year design and construction phase of the project.

UNCOVERING HISTORY

A midden has been discovered in the course of creating a bund for the lay-down area for the Lanes Flat site office.



HJV Environmental Advisor, Reuben Mills, Goodman's driver, Michael McLeavy and Project Archaeologist Mary O'Keeffe at the site of the midden discovery.

The midden was found on the eastern part of the lower flood plain of the Pauatahanui Stream and near the foot of the steep slopes that lead up to the St Alban's Church and the underlying site of Matai-Taui, Te Rangihaeata's pa of 1846.

Cockle shells and shattered rocks were found in the midden, suggesting it was once used as an oven.

"It may not look much, just a few shells and shattered rocks, but these small objects can tell big stories – not just about the use of local resources and activity in the immediate vicinity but also how people were living and travelling regionally and even nationally."

*– Project Archaeologist,
Mary O'Keeffe.*

The midden was discovered by Goodman's digger driver Michael McLeavy while stripping grass from the area prior to the laying of additional fill to build up the site.

"Even before I saw it I felt the change in texture and knew I had touched on something important. This is history for someone and we should do what we can to protect and preserve it."

The midden has been excavated for examination and later reconstruction. Shell fragments will be sent away for radio carbon dating.



The army was also called in to examine a grenade discovered during unexploded ordinance investigations at MacKays Crossing at the northern end of the project. The find was the result of a defined process to ensure the area, known to have housed American military bases during World War 11, is clear of any munitions prior to any works starting. The grenade had no fuse and was removed.



Supporting our Community



Wellington Gateway Partnership and Leighton HEB Joint Venture staff attended the charity long lunch in support of Wellington Free Ambulance.

"We are pleased to be 'the ones' providing a safer and more accessible route from MacKays Crossing through to Linden to improve connectivity between Wellington Free, their patients and Wellington Hospital."

- David Low, CEO of Wellington Gateway Partnership.

More Information

If you have any questions please call the project freephone number 0800 TGINFO (0800 84 4636) or email info@tg.co.nz.
Once works begin, you will find more information on our construction activities on www.tg.co.nz