The Waterview Connection is a NZ Transport Agency project to build a 4.8km, six-lane motorway connection between Auckland’s Southwestern Motorway (State Highway 20) and Northwestern Motorway (State Highway 16). The $1.4b project involves:

- Designing, building and commissioning two 2.4km long, 13.1m diameter bored tunnels up to 45m beneath Avondale and Waterview
- Connecting the tunnels to the existing motorway network – SH20 at the southern (Owairaka) end and SH16 at the northern (Waterview) end
- Expanding the Great North Road motorway interchange to provide connections between the tunnels and SH16

Work started in early 2012 and the Waterview Connection will be completed by early 2017. Tunnelling will be by a tunnel boring machine designed and built just for the Waterview tunnels. With a cutting head measuring just over 14m (as large as a four-storey building), it is the 10th biggest ever used in the world. The mega-machine will take two years to complete its underground journey from Owairaka to Waterview and back. It will place 24,040 tunnel lining segments as it goes and excavate 600,000 cubic metres of spoil.

Delivering the Waterview Connection is the Well-Connected Alliance, comprising the NZ Transport Agency, Fletcher Construction, McConnell Dowell, Parsons Brinkerhoff, Beca, Tonkin & Taylor and Japanese construction company Obayashi Corporation.

The Bigger Picture

The Waterview Connection is the final link in the long-planned Western Ring Route, a 48km motorway route that bypasses central Auckland. It will therefore end Auckland’s reliance on a single motorway spine – SH1 and the harbour bridge – for road travel through the region.

Completing the Western Ring Route has been prioritised by the Government as a Road of National Significance. As such it is part of a package of land transport projects identified as critical to New Zealand’s future prosperity. It will also ensure that Auckland has a strategic motorway network befitting a world class city - one with a resilient road transport network including a direct motorway link between the central business district and the Auckland International Airport.
More than just a motorway project

In delivering the Waterview Connection, the NZTA will leave behind better places and spaces for local communities including:

• Improved access on foot or bicycle to, around and between the Alan Wood Reserve in Owairaka and the Waterview Reserve in Waterview

• New recreational facilities including new sports fields, skateparks and courts for basketball and volleyball in both Waterview and Owairaka

• Extensive landscaping and planting to leave better places for nature as well as people

• Protection of the Oakley Creek, archaeological sites and local flora and fauna.

Working for and with local communities

The NZTA involved the community throughout the investigations and planning for the Waterview Connection project. It continues to involve the community to understand and address any issues and concerns residents and stakeholders have about the project’s construction.

Minimising construction impacts on project neighbours is a priority. The Well-Connected Alliance operates a 24-hour hotline. If you have urgent concerns or questions please call Freephone 0508 TUNNEL (886635).

For less urgent queries, you can also email us at info@wellconnected.co.nz

How you can stay connected

For more information about the Waterview Connection:
Register to receive Construction Updates by email at info@wellconnected.co.nz
Visit our website at www.nzta.govt.nz/waterviewconnection
View a video at: youtube.com/wcnow
Following us at twitter.com/wcnow
Or phone us on 09 621 1730