



Will be considered for release with redactions

**MINISTERIAL BRIEFING NOTE**

<b>Subject</b>	Ara Tūhono - Pūhoi to Warkworth Motorway and Te Honohono ki Tai Road Ribbon Cutting Event
<b>Date</b>	12 June 2023
<b>Briefing number</b>	BRI-2801

Contact(s) for telephone discussion (if required)				
Name	Position	Direct line	Cell phone	1 <sup>st</sup> contact
Steve Mutton	Director Regional Relationships, Tāmaki Makaurau & Te Tai Tokerau		Section 9(2)(a)	✓

**Action taken by Office of the Minister**

- ☐ Noted
- ☐ Seen by Minister
- ☐ Agreed
- ☐ Feedback provided
- ☐ Forwarded to
- ☐ Needs change [please specify]
- ☐ Withdrawn
- ☐ Overtaken by events

12 June 2023

**Hon Kiri Allan – Associate Minister of Transport**

## **Ara Tūhono - Pūhoi To Warkworth Motorway and Te Honohono Ki Tai Road Ribbon Cutting Event**

### **Purpose**

1. This briefing provides you with information about the Ara Tūhono – Pūhoi to Warkworth motorway and Te Honohono ki Tai Road, prior to the official opening event on Friday, 16 June 2023 from 5:15am.
2. The motorway is expected to open to public overnight on Sunday, 18 June 2023/Monday, 19 June 2023, likely in the small hours of Monday morning. This is standard opening practice as it prevents a build-up of sight-seeing “new road trippers” and helps ensure things are orderly, low key, and uncongested. Te Honohono ki Tai Road will open on the same date as the new motorway.
3. Please note that the opening date for the motorway is not to be made public ahead of time.

### **Project funding and costs**

4. Pūhoi to Warkworth is being delivered through a Public Private Partnership (PPP). The Northern Express Group (NX2) consortium will finance, design, construct, manage and maintain the motorway for 25 years following the build of the motorway. Full ownership of the highway will remain with the public sector.
5. Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency is committed to making repayments for the construction and maintenance for up to 25 years, once the highway is available to traffic.
6. NX2's equity investors are the Accident Compensation Corporation and Public Infrastructure Partners II LP (managed by Morrison & Co PIP Limited), ACCIONA Concesiones and Fletcher Building.
7. The current project cost for the new motorway is \$877.5 million. This comprises of three components including \$709.5 million (2016 Net Present Value) and two settlement packages. The settlement packages include \$85 million to cover the cost resulting from the first COVID-19 lockdown in 2020, and a further \$83 million which was agreed pre

COVID-19 to cover historic claims including extra costs to works at the northern end of the project.

8. The current project cost does not include any additional costs yet to be agreed as a result of the 2021 COVID-19 lockdown and associated Alert Level restrictions on the project.
9. Apart from the settlement amounts, NX2 has financed the project construction and has contracts with Fletcher/Acciona joint venture to build the road and a 25-year contract with Higgins/Acciona to manage and maintain the road.
10. The Te Honohono ki Tai Road project cost is \$62.2 million. It is funded with \$30.5 million from Auckland Transport and \$31.7 million from Waka Kotahi.
11. Both projects are being delivered within the National Land Transport Programme (NLTP) and funded from the National Land Transport Fund (NLTF).

#### **Project features**

12. Key features of the Ara Tūhono – Pūhoi to Warkworth motorway include:
  - The Ara Tūhono – Pūhoi to Warkworth motorway is an 18.5- kilometre-long four-lane motorway that will run from the Johnstones Hill tunnels to just north of Warkworth. It will be a key part of the Auckland to Northland Corridor, providing a safer, more reliable and resilient highway connection.
  - Ara Tūhono means a connecting pathway. The name was gifted by our project treaty partners, Hōkai Nuku.
  - The motorway has a minimum of four lanes (two in each direction) with additional crawler lanes on the steep sections. It is designed to the highest safety specifications, with side and central median barriers along the full length.
  - The project has cuts of up to 70 metres deep and over 10 million cubic metres of earth has been moved throughout the construction period.
  - More than eight million work hours have been completed on the project to date with 800 people working on the project at it's peak.
  - There are 46 culverts across the alignment, including the 11-Barrel Culvert structure. This is one of the largest culvert structures in New Zealand and took

three years to complete and is made up of 187 concrete pipes, each pipe weighing 10 tonnes.

- The motorway has an asphalt surface called open graded porous asphalt (OGPA). As the surface is porous, this will help with water runoff and increases resistance to provide a smooth and safe ride for motorists.
- Ara Tūhono – Pūhoi to Warkworth will be one of our safest roads, designed and built to meet the highest safety specifications, and supporting Road to Zero.
- Key safety features include:
  - flexible safety barrier along the median of the 18.5km motorway
  - fully sealed medians and shoulders
  - rockfall mesh barriers.
- There are seven structures across the project, the largest of these are the Arawhiti ki Ōkahu (Ōkahu viaduct) and the Arawhiti ki Pūhoi (Pūhoi Viaduct). Arawhiti ki Ōkahu is the longest viaduct, measuring 330 metres in length, while the nearby Arawhiti ki Pūhoi is slightly shorter at 316 metres long.
- Another key structure on the motorway is the Arawhiti Pua Ngahere (Kauri Eco Viaduct). This viaduct was designed to minimise the impact on an important forest of native Kauri trees.
- Around 850,000 plants have been planted to date with a total of one million to be planted over 2170ha by the end of the project.

#### **Project benefits**

13. Key benefits of the Ara Tūhono – Pūhoi to Warkworth motorway include:

- Improved safety, reliability and resilience for people, tourism and goods
- Improved connection between Te Tai Tokerau and Tāmaki Makaurau
- Support population growth and encourage a growing economy.

#### **Project context**

14. The Ara Tūhono – Pūhoi to Warkworth motorway is a key part of the Auckland/Northland corridor.
15. The Pūhoi to Warkworth section is the first stage of the Ara Tūhono project. Waka Kotahi continues to work towards securing land designation and resource consents for the second stage from Warkworth to Wellsford. We do not anticipate any works on the Warkworth to Wellsford corridor commencing this decade.
16. By 2048, there will be another 7,300 homes in Warkworth's future growth areas, and the population is expected to rise from 5,000 to around 22,000.
17. To support Warkworth's growth, Te Tupu Ngātahi Supporting Growth is planning a long-term transport network so that current and future communities can have better access to safe, accessible and low-carbon transport choices.
18. For the Warkworth area, this means protecting land to enable the future development of a range of long-term transport projects. Supporting Growth is talking to landowners who live around these project areas about what this means for them:
  - A new rapid transit corridor from Albany via Dairy Flat and onto Milldale.
  - A new station at Milldale and Pine Valley East.
  - Improved public transport connections for the wider area with bus priority on key routes including high frequency buses connecting Ōrewa and Silverdale.
  - 25km of new walking and cycling paths.
  - SH1 improvements - upgraded interchanges at Redvale and Silverdale, new interchange at Wilks Road.
  - New roads and upgrades to existing roads to help everyone move around safely.
19. Key features of the Te Honohono ki Tai Road include:
  - Te Honohono ki Tai Road – the Matakana link road project is 1.35km long and connects Matakana Road and SH1 just north of Warkworth in North Rodney.
  - The new road features a stream crossing (bridge), walking and cycling facilities, three wetlands and landscaping elements. It also accommodates access and

utility connections to new housing developments on both sides of the new road at two signalised intersections.

- The road has four lanes of traffic, narrowing to two lanes at the Matakana Road roundabout.
- The name Te Honohono ki Tai Road (from land to sea) was gifted to the project and Auckland Council (the local road naming authority) by the local mana whenua, Ngati Manuhiri.

20. Te Honohono ki Tai Road provides for the expected/planned growth of Warkworth and surrounding areas by improving the efficiency, resilience and safety of the local transport network including access to and from east coast settlements and beaches.

#### **Other matters**

21. A public information campaign will support the road opening to provide users with information on how to access the new corridor and what it will be like to travel on the alignment. Channels to share key messaging includes radio, social media, online and direct notification to locals.
22. To complete the required tie in works at the Pūhoi on and off ramps, planned closures at this location will be required for between two to four weeks while the construction team complete necessary tasks. It has not been possible for this work to be completed prior to the road opening as the on and off ramps are currently in use as part of the current State Highway 1 (SH1).
23. When the new road opens, the current SH1 between Pūhoi and Warkworth will become a local road. This process, known as revocation, will eventually transfer responsibility for the existing SH1 to Auckland Transport. It will be known as “Old State Highway 1” until the revocation occurs, and Auckland Transport complete the road renaming process.
24. This has been a major project with construction impacts mitigated where possible to reduce the impact on neighbours and the local community. Overall, the community and stakeholders have been supportive of the project and the benefits which it will deliver to those travelling around and through the local area.

#### **Event details**

25. The event will be located at the northern end of the Ara Tūhono – Pūhoi to Warkworth motorway at the motorway maintenance building.

26. Hōkai Nuku will conduct a dawn blessing prior to welcoming guests onto the site. The Minister will join Hōkai Nuku and Waka Kotahi at the dawn blessing.
27. Speeches and a ribbon cutting ceremony will take place.

**Key attendees to acknowledge**

28. The key attendees invited for the Pūhoi to Warkworth & Te Honohono ki Tai Road ceremony include the following:

- Central and local government representatives from across the greater Tāmaki Makaurau and Te Tai Tokerau regions
- Nicole Rosie, Chief Executive, Waka Kotahi
- Dean Kimpton, Chief Executive, Auckland Transport

**Media**

29. We expect a significant amount of local and national media interest.
30. Invited media include national publications NZ Herald, Newstalk, Stuff, One News, Radio NZ and local publications Mahurangi Matters and Northern Advocate.
31. While some media interest has focused on delays to the motorway project, it is expected that the opening coverage will be positive, noting the significance of opening an impressive array of new transport infrastructure that's fit for purpose now, and for the future.

**It is recommended that you:**

1. Note the contents of this briefing.
2. Forward this briefing to Rt Hon Chris Hipkins, Prime Minister.



**Steve Mutton**

Director Regional Relationships, Tāmaki Makaurau & Te Tai Tokerau

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**Hon Kiri Allan, Associate Minister of Transport**

Date:

2023

Proactively Released