



Waikato Expressway

Huntly Section

Information Sheet November 2014

Project on track for 2015 start

Plans to get the Huntly section of the Waikato Expressway started on time next year have taken a couple of major steps forward.

In July the board of the NZ Transport Agency approved funding of \$458 million for the design and construction of the 15.2km section.

And the Waikato District Council and Waikato Regional Council have signed off on the remaining resource consents and conditions surrounding designation changes to the central and southern sections of the project.

The whole section has been consented without the need for a Resource Management Act hearing – a reflection of the all-party co-operation, trust and stakeholder involvement right from the start of the project.

Transport Agency project manager for Huntly, Mercedes Santos, who also managed the Ngaruawahia section which opened late last year, says construction of the section will start in September 2015, allowing the Transport Agency to remain on track to complete the full length of the Waikato Expressway by late 2019.



Mercedes Santos

Transport Agency project manager for Huntly

The Huntly section will connect the Ohinewai section of the Expressway, in the north, to the Ngaruawahia section at Taupiri. It starts approximately 1.3km north of Fisher Road, and passes to the east side of Huntly township before continuing through the Taupiri Range to meet the Ngaruawahia section at Gordonton Road.

Procurement for the construction contract has started, with three shortlisted consortiums selected to tender for the project. The construction contract will be awarded April 2015 with construction due to start September 2015. The target completion date is 2019.

This summer some pre-construction works – minor tracking, fencing, minor vegetation clearance and the relocation of the Huntly Gun Club – will be carried out. Recently preliminary archaeological works got under way, preceded by a Waikato-Tainui iwi-led karakia.

A total of nine bridges and two half-diamond interchanges will be constructed as part of the project; this means that the Gordonton

Quick facts

Length: 15.2km

Expected build period: 2015 – 2019

Road design: Two traffic lanes in each direction (four lanes total) 100km/h speed limit

Interchanges: Huntly North Interchange – north-bound on-ramp and south-bound off-ramp to Huntly

Gordonton Road Interchange – north-bound and south-bound on-ramps and off-ramps

Estimated value: \$458 million

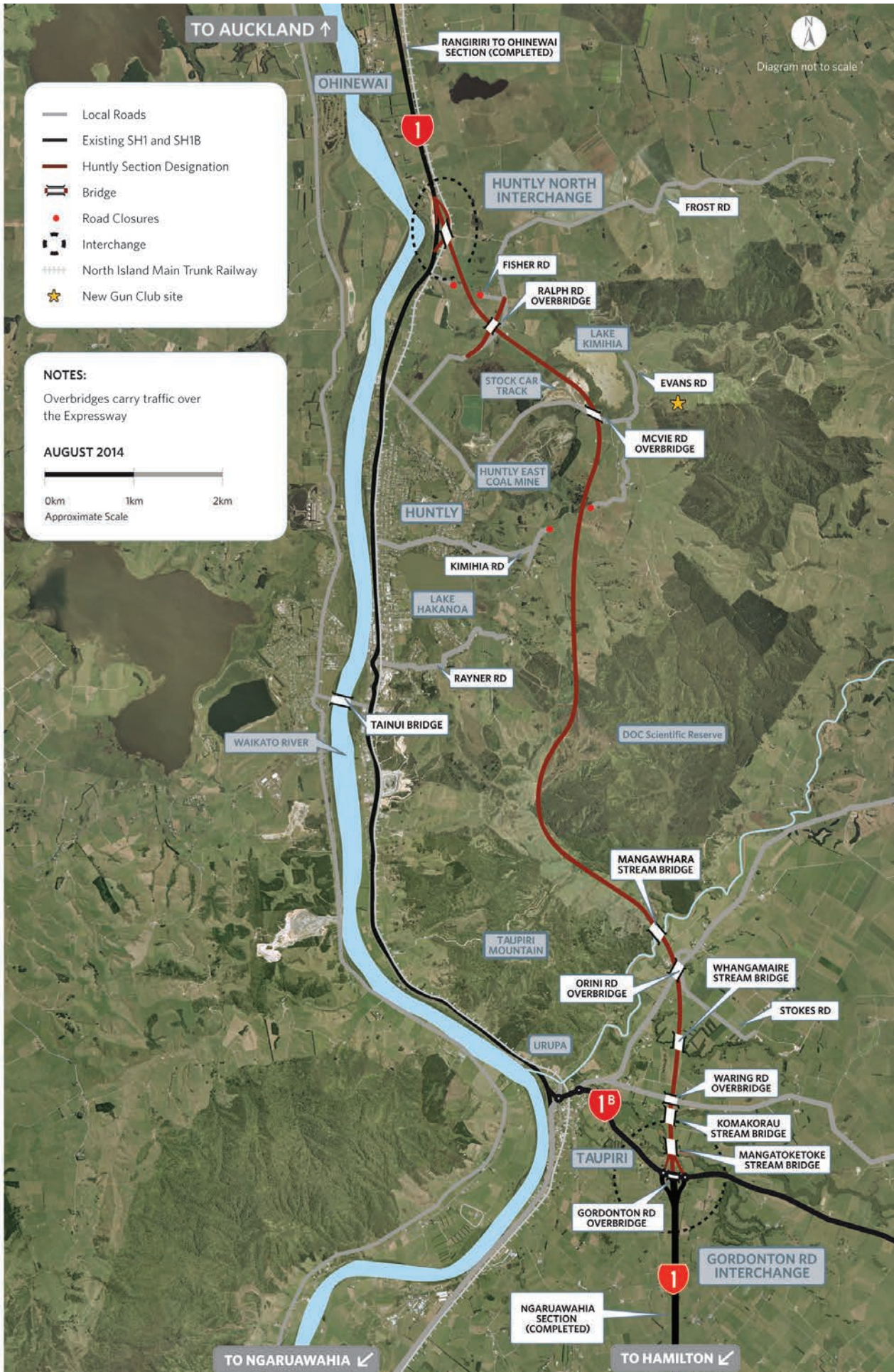
Road interchange will become a full diamond interchange.

“This section of the Waikato Expressway will reduce traffic congestion in Huntly and Taupiri and improve safety, particularly near the urupa (cemetery) on Taupiri Mountain,” Mercedes says.

“The good progress to date has been the direct result of collaboration with the Tangata Whenua Working Group and following consultation with the community, councils, landowners and key stakeholders over the past three years.”



View of alignment looking north from Taupiri Range



Waikato Expressway Huntly Section

A collaborative approach with key stakeholders

Working in partnership with DOC

The Transport Agency and the Department of Conservation have been working together on ecological issues on the Huntly section.

That collaborative approach has pleased DOC's partnerships manager Brigitte Meier.

"DOC identified from the outset of the project the importance of a careful and collaborative approach, particularly in terms of potential effects on the Taupiri Scientific Reserve and the Lake Kimihia Wildlife Management Reserve," says Brigitte.

"We are pleased with how the various stakeholders have worked together to achieve a good outcome which balances the Transport Agency's objectives for the construction of the Expressway with the mitigation of the ecological effects."



Taupiri Scientific Reserve

An Ecological Mitigation Plan has been developed by the Transport Agency in collaboration with DOC, Fish and Game and the Tangata Whenua Working Group. The objective is to achieve no net loss of native vegetation, wetlands, critical habitats and endangered species.

A range of mitigation mechanisms are planned to offset or compensate for the impacts that cannot be avoided or minimised. They include habitat creation and enhancement and weed and pest management – including goats and possums.

Mitigation will also include incorporating of some of the land severance areas to the east of the Expressway into the Taupiri Scientific Reserve as well as protecting other areas of ecological value by measures such as conservation covenants.



Lake Kimihia

Tangata whenua closely involved

The Taupiri Range, Taupiri Urupa, lakes, streams and other sites in the area hold special significance to tangata whenua.

So they have been involved right from the start of the Huntly section planning, recognising their role as kaitiaki (guardians).

The Tangata Whenua Working Group was integrated into the project team early on, with access to investigation and design information and representation at regular project meetings.

The establishment of the working group has helped the Transport Agency and project by providing a collective group to represent Maori interests. The regular input of the group has meant that any issues can be addressed quickly and efficiently.

The working group is made up of people from entities which have mana whenua status over the area touched by the Huntly section.

Working group chairman Norman Hill says the whole process reflects best practice in consultation and involvement of tangata whenua with major infrastructure projects.

"The working group has provided an opportunity for clear and direct lines of communication to the Transport Agency and their consultants which has been beneficial for all parties," Norman says.

"The Transport Agency has benefited from the working group by gaining a clear understanding of our concerns and ideas. We look forward to maintaining the excellent relationship as the project now moves from the investigation and design stage into construction and beyond."



NZ Transport Agency consultants discuss the Huntly Section with Tangata Whenua Working Group members

Green light for gun club move

The Huntly Gun Club is to move to a new base on Evans Road. The gun club's current property, on McVie Road near the stock car track and the Huntly East Coal Mine pit, is in the direct path of the Expressway. In late 2012 the Transport Agency obtained resource consents for the club to move to the Evans Road site. The decision made by Waikato District Council was appealed to the Environment Court by a submitter and a hearing was held in December 2013.

In April this year the Environment Court released its decision to approve the resource consent, subject to conditions around the construction and ongoing operation of the gun club.

The Evans Road property was purchased by the Crown in 2008 for this specific purpose.



Planned Gun Club site on Evans Road

What's been happening this year

DATE	DESCRIPTION
March	Notice of Requirement for alteration to the Southern Section designation lodged with Waikato District Council, lodgement of the four stream bridges resource consent applications to Waikato Regional Council.
May	Earthworks, stormwater discharge, vegetation clearance, water take and overburden disposal resource consent applications lodged with Waikato Regional Council.
July - October	Southern Section designation and regional resource consent applications processed.
August - December	Tendering for design and construction.
Now until 2015	Land purchases.
September 2015	Construction starts.
Late 2019	Huntly Section completed.

Expressway overview

This project is part of the larger Waikato Expressway programme of work. The Waikato Expressway is one of seven roads of national significance for New Zealand.

Sections update

- Longswamp - Secondary investigation. Construction 2016 - 2018
- Rangiriri - Under construction. Opens late 2016
- Ngaruawahia - Opened December 2013
- Te Rapa - Opened December 2012
- Hamilton - Specimen design under way. Construction 2016 - 2019
- Cambridge - Under construction. Opens late 2016

Our contact details

For enquiries or information regarding the Huntly Section of the Waikato Expressway.

Waikato Expressway Communications and Stakeholder Liaison Manager
 Phone: 07 958 7220
 Email: waikatoexpressway@nzta.co.nz



For further information online visit:
www.nzta.govt.nz/rons
www.nzta.govt.nz/waikato-expressway
www.nzta.govt.nz/huntly



Follow us on facebook

www.facebook.com/waikatoexpressway