



# Waikato Expressway

## Rangiriri Section update

Information sheet February 2013



## Quick facts

**Location** The Rangiriri section starts immediately north of the State Highway 1 intersection at Te Kauwhata and follows a new alignment closer to the Waikato River. It will join onto the completed Ohinewai section of the expressway south of Rangiriri. The new alignment will avoid the culturally and historically significant Rangiriri Pa site and and the site of the 1863 Battle of Rangiriri.

**Current stage of work** Construction

**Estimated project value** \$105 million

**Length of section** 4.8km

**Target complete date** late 2016

## Construction starts

The NZ Transport Agency has awarded Fletcher Construction the contract to build the \$105 million Rangiriri section of the Waikato Expressway. Construction commenced on Wednesday 29 January, in an area north of Glen Murray Road between Te Wheoro Road and Churchill East Road.

The project team took part in a site blessing carried out by local kaumātua ahead of construction starting.

A sod-turning to mark the start of construction is being planned for early March.

Over the next few months, the project team will be expanding their site offices at 11 Murphy Street (formerly known as Morphy Street).

Work has already commenced on installing environmental controls and site clearance on the new main alignment which runs adjacent to

Churchill East Road. This will include the removal of trees and stripping of top soil.

This work will also include the relocation of Transpower pylons away from the main alignment. This relocation work will be taking place adjacent to the Glen Murray bridge and the Rangiriri boat ramp.

The team will also be working on relocating utilities along the project length.

Once the site clearance and environmental work has taken place, bulk earthworks will then begin on the main alignment adjacent to Churchill East Road.

The entire project involves approximately 800,000 cubic metres of earthworks. These initial works off Churchill East Road will see approximately 100,000 cubic metres of earth moved.

## Project benefits

When complete, the Waikato Expressway will be a key strategic transport corridor for the Waikato region, connecting Auckland to the agricultural and business centres of Waikato and Bay of Plenty. The expressway will improve economic growth and productivity through more efficient movement of people and freight.

Other benefits include:

- reduced travel times between Auckland and Tirau by 35 minutes
- significantly fewer fatal and serious injury crashes
- reduced fuel costs
- reduced traffic congestion within smaller communities like Huntly, Ngāruawahia and Cambridge
- increased highway capacity and passing opportunities.

The Rangiriri section will:

- connect the Longswamp and Ohinewai sections of the expressway
- improve connectivity from Auckland to Huntly and further south
- improve safety, particularly for those using the Rangiriri and Te Kauwhata intersections
- provide improved connections for the community.



The project team and kaumātua



# Traffic management

Residents will be regularly updated of any traffic management that may impact on them over the life of the project.

It is expected there will be some impact to traffic travelling on State Highway 1 as the project develops and work starts on the two major structures on the section, interchanges at the intersection of Te Kauwhata Road and SH1 and an interchange at Rangiriri.

Access to the Rangiriri township will be maintained at all times.

Your patience with respect to any disruption is appreciated.

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Artist's impression of the Rangiriri interchange



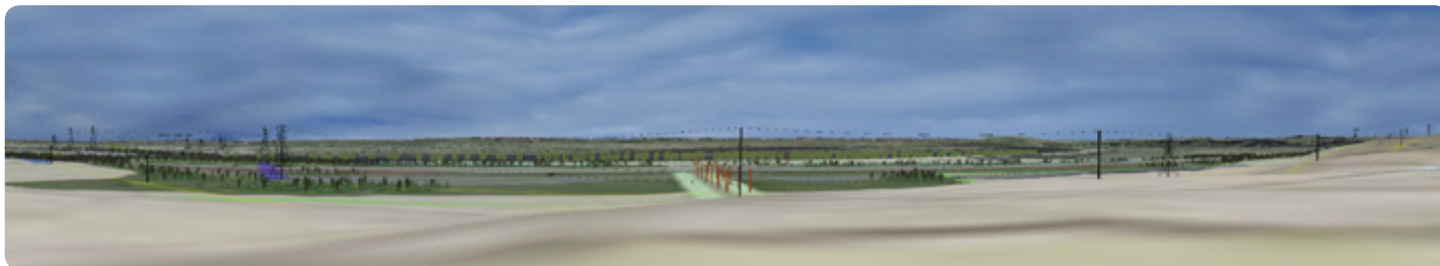
Artist's impression of the Te Kauwhata interchanges

# Rangiriri Pa site and battlefield restoration

Preserving the historical features of Rangiriri is an important priority for the NZ Transport Agency in partnership with tangata whenua. The NZTA recognises that the Rangiriri area is of significant cultural and historic importance to Waikato Tainui and other iwi involved in the historic land wars.

Collaboration between the NZTA and Waikato Tainui will see restoration of the historic Rangiriri Pa site and battleground, including:

- the historic battle trench will be symbolically recreated through the installation of carved pou on the site
- the historic site of Paetai, associated with the crowning of the first Māori king, will be recognised with carved pou and the installation of a plaque.



Artist's impression of the symbolic recreation of the battle trench through the installation of carved pou on the site

# Environmental management

The NZ Transport Agency is committed to improving the contribution state highways make to the environment and social wellbeing of New Zealand.

The detailed planting and landscaping design for the project is currently being developed. This will be done in consultation with tangata whenua and the local community, the design sympathetic to the cultural and historical significance of the area.

The design will include specific plans for planting at Lake Kopuera and Lake Waikare. This landscaping will greatly enhance the ecological values of these key areas.

Enhancements will also be made through the creation of two fish passages to maintain fish movements from Te Onetea Stream.

Where possible, seeds for the planting are being harvested locally to ensure the plants are endemic to the area.

On a large earthworks site, one of the environmental risks is sediment discharge into watercourses. Protecting the water quality of the Waikato River is a priority for the project team. Over the coming weeks the team will be working on diverting existing farm drains away from earthworks sites and establishing earth bunds to isolate the areas where earthworks are underway. There will also be diversion bunds installed to ensure clean water from the surrounding land is isolated from any works.

A series of ponds will be installed along the length of the project to treat water runoff from the earthworks areas.



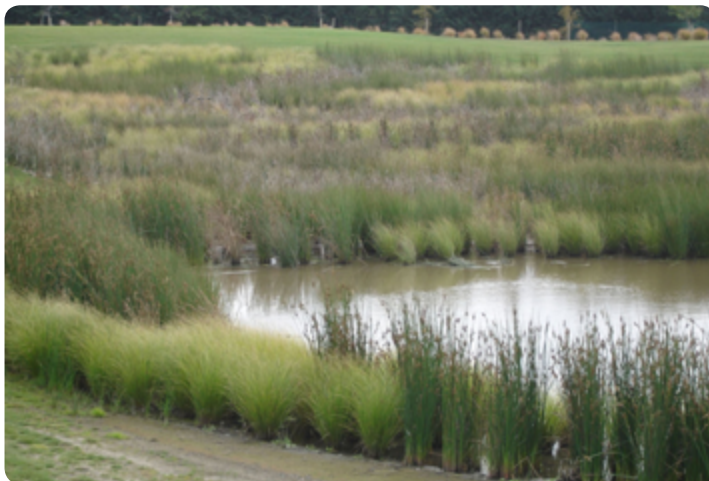
Construction of one of the earth bunds as part of the environmental controls for the project

## Mudfish relocation

A population of nationally significant mudfish was identified during the investigation phase of the project.

Ecologists employed as part of the project team have developed protective measures to ensure that the habitat is preserved and that the existing population of mudfish is maintained. This work will also include the enhancement of the habitat through planting as part of the project.

Construction works in the vicinity of the mudfish habitat will not take place until the winter. This is when the surrounding water table rises and the adult population can be netted and relocated offsite. The fish will then be returned to an enhanced habitat once the road construction is complete.



Wetland



For more information

For further information online visit:

[www.nzta.govt.nz/waikato-expressway](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/waikato-expressway)

[www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/rangiriri](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/rangiriri)



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