

Warkworth to Wellsford

ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS FACT SHEET



The state highway network passes through areas of significant ecological value, including national parks, native forests and areas of indigenous biodiversity. Constructing, maintaining and operating the state highway network can impact terrestrial, aquatic and coastal ecology in several ways including altering the physical environment such as soil density, and surface water flow. Altering the environment can result in habitat loss and changes to animal behaviour.

The NZ Transport Agency aims to avoid, remedy or mitigate potential adverse effects on these ecological resources. We understand that environmental management is most effective when environmental constraints and opportunities are considered early in planning, design, construction and maintenance of state highways. We value New Zealand's natural resources and work hard to make sure the natural environment is protected by assessing and mitigating ecological impacts, using best-practice sediment and erosion control, protecting water bodies through stormwater management and conducting environmental and social responsibility research.

For infrastructure projects, we undertake technical investigations including water quality monitoring and ecological surveys to help us understand the existing environment and identify the habitats and species that exist within an area. When undertaking environmental investigations, the Transport Agency follows recognised standards and guidelines that mean we have a nationally consistent approach.

WHY DO YOU UNDERTAKE WATER QUALITY MONITORING?

We take water samples and analyse these to characterise the water and sediment quality of the freshwater environments that a project might affect. Characterising freshwater and marine receiving environments gives us a snapshot of the baseline state of water and sediment quality in these environments before the new road is constructed. The data and information collected is used for the project assessment of effects on the environment which will accompany the Transport Agency's applications for resource consents. This data may also be used as a comparison with monitoring data collected when the new road is built and operated.



Koura (Freshwater Crayfish, *Paraneohrops planifrons*) with eggs (in berry)

THE WARKWORTH TO WELLSFORD PROJECT

The Warkworth to Wellsford project is the second section of Ara Tūhono Pūhoi to Wellsford. The Indicative Alignment travels west of Warkworth and east of both Wellsford and Te Hana, connecting back into the existing State Highway 1 north of Maeneene and Waimanu Roads.

Environmental investigations undertaken for the project throughout 2017 included ecological surveys. Freshwater ecologists have undertaken assessments at representative streams and found that the highest value streams are located within the Dome Valley plantation pine forest, where the quality is similar to those found in streams located within native forests. Routine water quality sampling is ongoing.

Terrestrial ecologists have identified key wetland and forest habitats found on the margin of a raupō reedland in the Kaipara Flats area and evidence of kauri snails in the pine forest. Marine ecologists have surveyed the intertidal habitats of the Kaipara and Mahurangi Harbours where the freshwater streams flow into.

These ecological assessments along the Indicative Alignment have informed the design. The Indicative Alignment in some areas has been moved to avoid sensitive areas, such as the Mahurangi River left branch.

An Urban and Landscape Design Framework will inform the types of plants to be planted and where they should be planted, including mitigation planting to address any loss of vegetation.



Kauri snail



Banded Kokopu
(*Galaxias fasciatus*)



Site Located within Matariki Forestry Block, Warkworth



CONTACT US

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