

1 Project update

June 2015



A view from the Gordonton Road interchange looking north to the Taupiri Range.

Contractors gear up for start

A Fulton Hogan and HEB Construction joint venture will build the \$458 million Huntly section of the Waikato Expressway, the successful tenderer was announced in March.

Jacobs, Opus International Consultants, Gaia Engineers and Bartley Consultants have been engaged by the joint venture to do the design and engineering services.

Both Fulton Hogan and HEB Construction are no strangers to big NZ Transport Agency projects. They have been working together on the \$455 million Tauranga Eastern Link project, which wraps up mid-year. Fulton Hogan also built the Te Rapa section under an alliance model with the Transport Agency. HEB Construction has the Cambridge section contract and expects to finish that early next year.

Fulton Hogan project director Tony Dickens is excited about the Huntly project – in scope, size and challenges. “This is a great project to be involved

with and we are looking forward to creating a great piece of road through a very special part of the Waikato.”

HEB Construction chief executive Derrick Adams said the company was delighted to be able to continue their involvement with the Transport Agency and the expressway project.

“We are also very pleased to be teaming up with our construction partners Fulton Hogan, and designers Jacobs and Opus.”

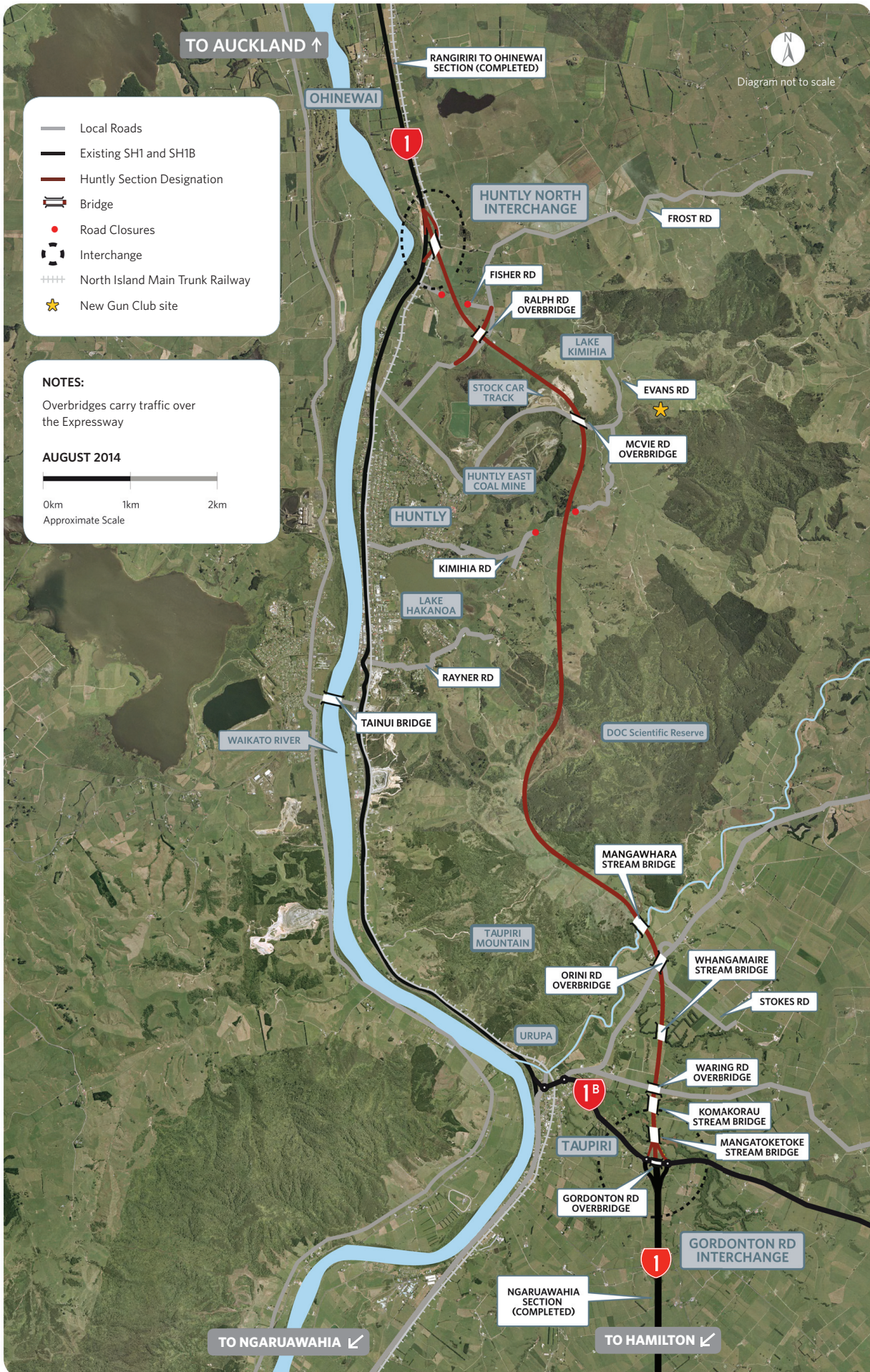
Ahead of physical work starting in September, detailed design work will be well under way and some enabling works done, such as geotechnical testing, fencing and establishing the site compound for the project.

The project will see a 15.2km four-lane expressway built between

the completed Ohinewai and Ngaruawahia sections. It will connect to the existing expressway at Ohinewai with an interchange providing north-facing ramps connecting to the existing SH1. As part of this connection a bridge carrying expressway traffic will be built over the existing SH1 and the main trunk railway line.

The section will connect to the completed Ngaruawahia section at the Gordonton Road interchange.

There will be four local road bridges at Ralph Road, McVie Road, Orini Road and Waring Road. The project also includes four bridges to take traffic over the Mangawhara Stream, Whangamaire Stream, Komakorau Stream and Mangatoketoke Stream.



Uncovering the past

Archaeologist Warren Gumbley says projects such as the Waikato Expressway provide an opportunity to uncover the past.

He and a small team of archaeologists and Waikato-Tainui have been collecting and preserving items from the buried past ahead of work starting on the Huntly section of the Expressway.

Work began alongside tangata whenua on the first of three sites in March, collecting and preserving historical information.

“So far the archaeology team have found evidence of borrow pits and storage pits in the area as part of a large pre-European Maori horticultural operation which stretched along the Waikato River from Mercer upstream to Arapuni,” he says.

“This project is allowing us to document this important part of the Waikato Maori economy.

“The river was their arterial route for the movement of people and crops.”

His team don't just dig anywhere; geo-magnetic surveys point to anomalies under the ground – like fireplaces and storage pits.

The site goes back to the earliest settlement period of inland Waikato, around the late 15th century.

The archaeological team will continue to work on site as long as weather allows. Any historically important items are returned to tangata whenua and documented for historical purposes.

The archaeological work fits with the Transport Agency's policy of working closely with landowners and iwi groups ahead of major projects, recognising tangata whenua in their role as kaitiaki (guardians).

This has been especially important due to the Huntly section crossing of the Taupiri Range and lowlands, which have a special connection to tangata whenua.



Warren Gumbley on site at the Huntly project.



Moko Kumar addresses guests on Waahi Marae.
Photo: SFL Management

Warm welcome to team

The Huntly project team were welcomed on to Waahi Marae in Huntly recently.

A powhiri was hosted by Waikato-Tainui and members of the Tangata Whenua Working Group – which is made up of representatives from local iwi groups – on March 31.

Senior representatives from Fulton Hogan, HEB Construction and Opus International Consultants attended and expressed their appreciation of the work done so far by the working group and the hospitality on the day. For some it was their first visit to a marae.

A lively korero followed the welcome, with a good exchange of ideas.

Expressway overview

The Huntly section 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 - Construction 2016-2018
- Rangiriri - Under construction, opens late 2016 or 2017
- Huntly - Construction 2015-2019
- Ngaruawahia - Opened December 2013
- Te Rapa - Opened December 2012
- Hamilton - Construction 2016-2020
- Cambridge - Under construction, opens 2016



ACCOLADES FOR PROJECT PLANNING



From left, BBO managing director, John Olliver, Transport Agency Waikato/Bay of Plenty regional director Harry Wilson, Transport Agency Senior Project Manager, Mercedes Santos, Waikato-Tainui chairman Rahui Papa and NZPI Awards Panel chief Andrew Willis.

The NZ Transport Agency and Hamilton consultants Bloxam, Burnett and Olliver took out top honours at the NZ Planning Institute's national awards in April.

The team won both the Supreme Best Practice Award and the Best Practice Award for District and Regional Planning for their work on the Huntly section.

Close collaboration with key parties throughout the development phase resulted in resource consent hearings not being required, and only a brief hearing to finalise designation conditions, with no appeals to the Environment Court.

Transport Agency regional director Harry Wilson says the awards recognise the importance of relationships, teamwork and collaboration.

"We could not have achieved this without our key partners Waikato-Tainui. Over many years we have built a strong partnership with them and this relationship, which continues, is at the heart of these awards and the work we do in the Waikato."

Waikato-Tainui won the best practice award for excellence in strategic planning and guidance for the Tai Tumu, Tai Pari, Tai Ao environmental management plan.

NEW PROJECT MANAGER

NZ Transport Agency's senior project manager, Mercedes Santos is temporarily handing over the reins to another senior project manager, Raj Rajagopal.

Raj hails from Malaysia and has more than 30 years' experience working on expressway construction in Malaysia, India and New Zealand.

He moved to New Zealand in 2007 with his wife and two



sons to take up a position with the Transport Agency. Raj is also the project manager for the Cambridge section of the expressway.

Mercedes will be acting regional network performance manager while the current manager is on maternity leave.

KEEP IN TOUCH

To find out more about the Waikato Expressway go to www.nzta.govt.nz/waikatoexpressway

And the latest news is always on Facebook: www.facebook.com/waikatoexpressway

OUR CONTACT DETAILS

Nicola Martin
Waikato Expressway Communications
and Stakeholder Liaison Manager
Telephone: 07 958 7260
Mobile: 027 292 8076
Email: nicola.martin@nzta.govt.nz

Trish Viall
Stakeholder Liaison Manager
Fulton Hogan Joint Venture
Mobile: 027 548 7474
Email: trish.viall@fultonhogan.com