

# 1 Longswamp project update

April 2017



The median barrier is being removed as construction work gets under way

## Making room to build new lanes

Contractor Downer NZ has started construction of the new south-bound lanes of SH1 as part of the Longswamp section of the Waikato Expressway.

The south-bound lanes are being built first, right along the 5.9km project. Then traffic will be switched on to those lanes in mid-to-late 2018 while the north-bound lanes are built.

Currently SH1 traffic from approximately 1km south of Hampton Downs overpass to Paddy Road has been reduced to one lane each way. The lanes have been narrowed and a lowered speed limit of 70km/h is in place. This is for the safety of road users and project workers.

Downer staff have removed the flexible safety barriers and re-paved the median strip as they need to make the most of the space available.

The existing outer south-bound lanes are being dug up for widening and reconstruction.

The work is staged, and progress will depend on the ground conditions. Not all work is on SH1 either - there are improvements to be made to sideroads, and a bridge will be built over the expressway near Paddy Road.

Please take care driving through the construction zone, and be mindful of our crews and construction vehicles.

## Hours of work

Day working hours are 7am-7pm. Night work (when required) will take place outside evening peak-hour traffic. We do not anticipate any access restrictions to properties throughout this stage of the works.

## Longswamp traffic changes:

- » Reduced speed limit down to 70km/h through site.
- » Narrowed lanes
- » Intermittent stop-go traffic management for tree removal until the end of April
- » No right turn from SH1 into Whangamarino Rd.
- » No right turn from Whangamarino Rd into SH1
- » Possible delays so please allow extra time for journeys



Please be aware that throughout the construction of the new SH1 lanes commuters will no longer be able to right turn into and/or out of Whangamarino Rd. Alternative access is via Hampton Downs overpass.



## Keeping you informed

Keeping the community informed about progress on the Longswamp section is important to the project team.

We'll also be keeping you informed through these quarterly newsletters, regular updates to residents of works happening in their area and links on our website and Facebook page.

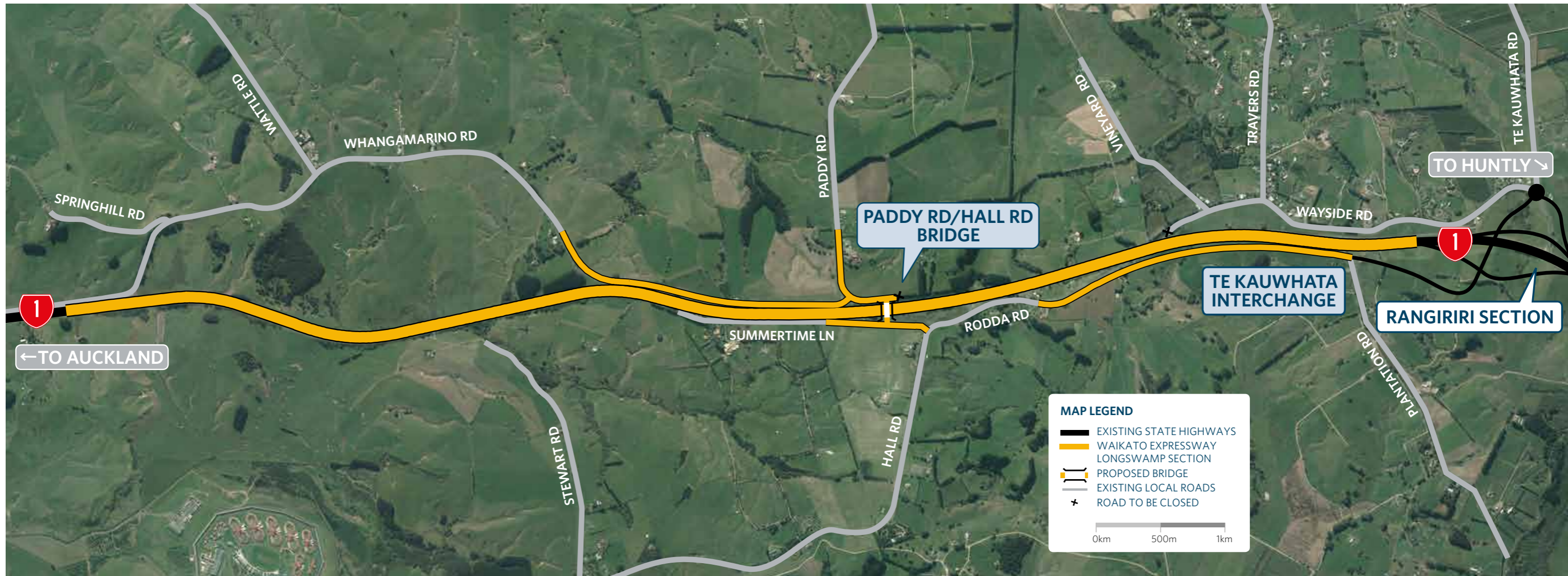


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# Longswamp section



## Longswamp site office is now open

The Longswamp site office is now open at Paddy Road. Please feel free to drop by and chat to the team about any queries or concerns you may have.



## Watching out for the locals

Looking out for native species at risk from construction work is important to the Longswamp project team.

As part of the project's resource consent conditions protocols are in place around the tree felling and removal process for the protection of native species.

Before any trees are felled onsite, monitors are set up overnight to listen for long-tailed bats. Bats were detected by the monitors recently so further investigation was required to determine whether they were roosting in the trees. Thermal imaging cameras confirmed the bats were passing and not roosting.

The protection and relocation of indigenous lizards is another important consideration when clearing vegetation. Site staff have been briefed about at-risk species and this paid off a few weeks ago when a site engineer spotted and captured a lizard. However this turned out to be a rainbow skink, which is introduced. Ecologists will initially remain onsite in case more lizards are discovered.

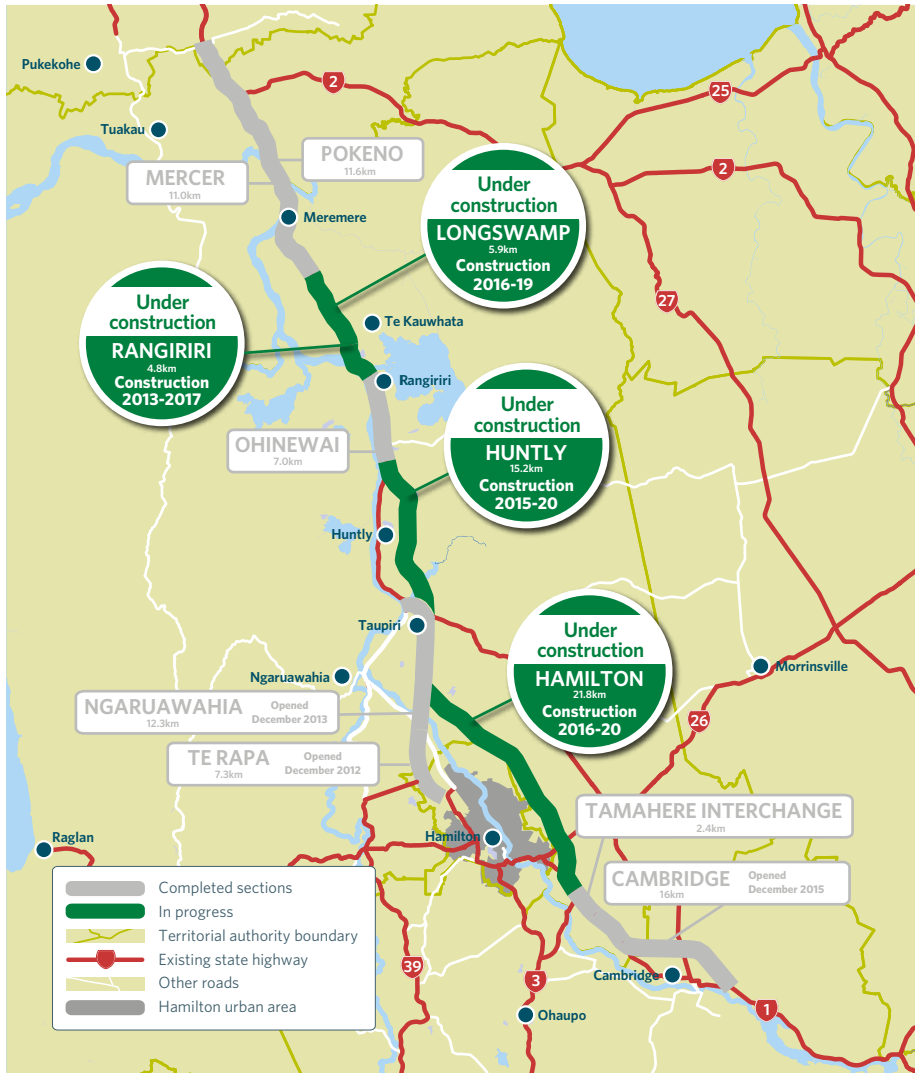
The team are also checking waterways around the site for native fish, in particular mudfish and long-fin eels. Overnight monitoring of waterways affected by the project was undertaken prior to work starting. No mudfish were caught in the 20 traps that were set which indicates these waterways are a low risk.



This rainbow skink was released away from the works area.

# Expressway overview

The Waikato Expressway is one of the Government's seven Roads of National Significance. It will improve safety and reliability, and reduce travel times and congestion on State Highway 1 by delivering a four-lane highway from the Bombay Hills to south of Cambridge. The Expressway is being built in seven sections.



## Did you know?

- The project started in 2016 and will finish in 2019.
- The Longswamp Section is 5.9km long.
- It is the last section of the 102km Waikato Expressway to begin construction.
- There are 940,000 cubic metres of earth to be moved.

## STAFF PROFILE

### Project Manager

### Iain Fletcher



Originally from Scotland, Iain arrived in New Zealand in 1998 and has been in management roles for Downer for the past 13 years.

Iain has project managed large civil infrastructure projects all over New Zealand including the Hamilton Ring Road, Normanby Realignment Project in south Taranaki, SH2/SH58 Haywards Interchange in Wellington and is now back in the Waikato project managing the Longswamp section.

He's happy to be working closer to home and on a high-profile project.

"The Waikato Expressway is a massive project, and it's going to deliver huge benefits for New Zealand. Longswamp is a key part and we are all excited to be part of it.

"Longswamp is the last of the seven stages to get under way and the project team is looking forward to seeing the public on a safe, four-lane highway through here in early 2019."



### Any questions?

#### Project site office

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