

1 Longswamp project update

July 2017

SH1 four-laning gathering pace

The contractor, Downer NZ, has made a solid start to the Longswamp section of the Waikato Expressway, with work progressing well across the 5.9km site since construction ramped up early this year.

Over the past six months, Downer has completed the majority of the environmental procedures (to ensure the safety of native species), major tree clearance, fence relocation and implemented necessary major traffic management changes between the Te Kauwhata and Hampton Downs overbridges.

These traffic changes have involved dropping SH1 down to a single lane in both directions and reducing the speed limit to 70km/h. This is so the excavation and widening could begin safely. There have also been major traffic changes implemented at a number of intersections (see the map over the page for details).

The construction work for the new south-bound lanes is progressing well behind temporary guardrails. There are two parts to the widening process on the eastern side of SH1; excavating the existing pavement and banks next to the existing highway, and filling up the gullies to the new road level to accommodate the widened south-bound lanes.

As part of the filling process, the new fill must be imported into the gullies in sections and left to settle. While the fill in one area settles, Downer works on another section of the site then returns to complete the stormwater drainage and pavement works, and so forth. Work on the road surface will soon start in the middle section of the site.

Another milestone now under way is the piling works for the new Paddy Road overbridge. The piling rig has now commenced the installation of six new piles, there will be two either side of SH1 and two in the middle of the expressway.

To construct each pile, a pile case is vibrated into the ground to approximately 30m down, once it has reached its depth, the soil inside will be drilled out, a pile cage will be inserted, and the hole will then be filled with concrete. The construction of these piles will continue throughout July and while this is going on, Downer will also start working on the construction of the new bridge MSE (Mechanically Stabilised Earth) walls.

Downer has established a site office at 5 Paddy Road so please pop in and visit the team during working hours should you have any queries about the project.



The Longswamp section looking south from Hampton Downs.



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



No right turn into or out of Whangamarino Road / SH1 intersection. This intersection will close permanently early next year when Whangamarino Road opens through to Paddy Road.



The project site office, the place to go with your project questions.



No right turn into or out of Paddy Road / SH1 intersection. Piling started for the Paddy Road overbridge this month. The bridge will be finished in August 2018.



Wayside Road / SH1 intersection has been permanently closed. Access is via Te Kauwhata off-ramps or Travers Road.



Ongoing construction and widening of the new south-bound lanes. Pavement works are about to start and the lanes are expected to be finished around Easter 2018.



New temporary entrance has been created for Summertime Lane access from SH1 and is now in use. Permanent link to Hall Road is expected to open in October 2018.



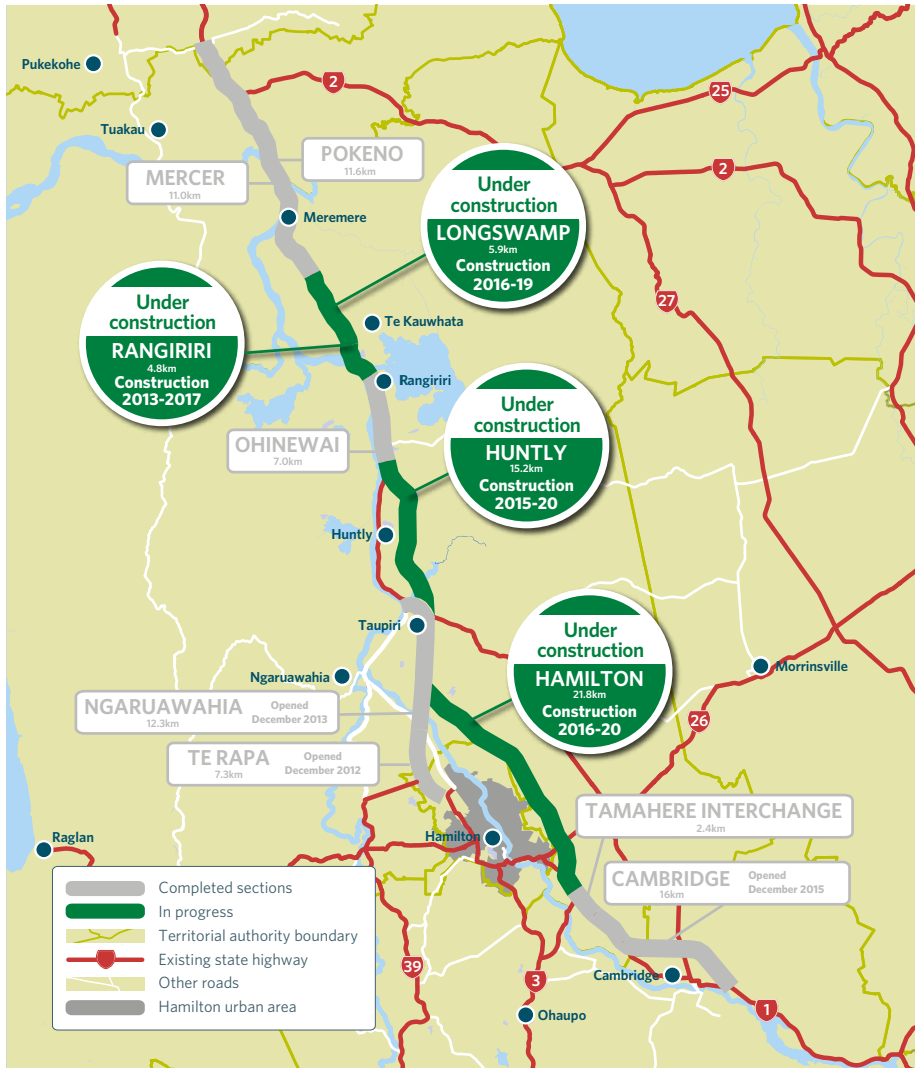
No right turn into or out of Hall Road / SH1 intersection. There will be some additional Stop/Go around the Hall Road/Summertime Lane from August 2017 while the road level is raised to tie into the new level of road. The Hall Road/SH1 intersection will close in December 2017 when Rodda Road opens through to Plantation Road.



Rodda Road is expected to be complete through to Plantation Rd in December 2017.

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.



STAFF PROFILE

Downer Site Traffic Management Supervisor (STMS) Colin Clifton.



How long have you been working in traffic management? I have been in TM for 5 years, the past 4 being employed by Downer. The first year I was a Traffic Controller but for the previous 4, I have been an STMS.

How did you get into Traffic Management? I fell into it by chance. I'm originally from Dunedin and came up to Hamilton five years ago to visit family for what I thought would be a two-week holiday. I applied for a temp job and, well, I never left.

What do you love about your job? The people, definitely the people. Not just my team but the travelling public. I love getting people safely through a busy site. I also love maintaining a site that I'm proud of. Years down the track after the project is complete I can drive through and look back on the finished project and feel proud I worked on that job.

What is your fondest memory from the past 5 years on the job? In 2014 working in Whangarei during the SH1 closure at Kawakawa, because of the big slip. I was working on Mangatawhiri Road and the locals would always bring me and my team a mean feed. It was a great project to be on.

What are the biggest day to day challenges working on the Longswamp project? Managing the high volume of traffic through the site and also accommodating wide loads through such a confined area.

How do you manage traffic travelling through this project? Communication and planning are key.

Key Message to commuters? Please slow down. The speed restrictions are there for a reason!

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.



Any questions?

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