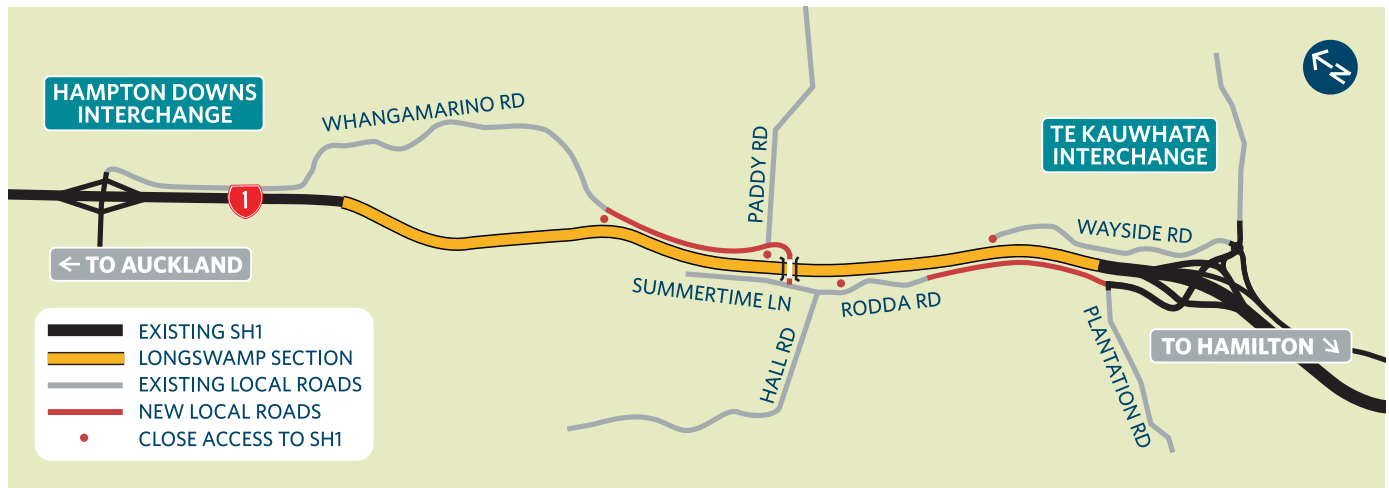




# Longswamp project update

August 2015



## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

Construction of the Longswamp Section of the Waikato Expressway is on track to start next year. The project team are continuing with obtaining the required consents, doing detailed design, and working with landowners to acquire land.

The layout has been confirmed, which is as per the diagram above, with the extension of local roads and a bridge over the Expressway. A Notice of Requirement to alter the designation has been lodged with the Waikato District Council and applications for resource consents have been prepared and lodged with the Waikato Regional Council.

There are two significant alterations to the designation: the removal of the currently designated interchange at Paddy/Hall roads and the addition of the Rodda Road to Plantation Road link. These changes were arrived at due to low traffic volumes, the fact the area is likely to remain rural and not subject to development according to Waikato District Council's District Plan, and that the project will provide suitable local road connections to maintain access.

These applications are now in council hands and it is anticipated that these will be notified so people can make submissions. In

the event of submissions being received, these may be worked through on a one-to-one basis with each submitter or a hearing before independent commissioners will take place.

Geotechnical testing is complete and monitoring is ongoing. The proposed bridge between Paddy Road and Summertime Lane/Rodda Rd is being designed. This will be a two-lane bridge about equal distance from both the Te Kauwhata and Hampton Downs interchanges, and will include a footpath on one side.

The four-laning and upgrading of the existing SH1 to expressway standards means land is required along the route. We began the acquisition process earlier this year and it is on-going.

"This is never an easy process and the Transport Agency appreciates the co-operation of landowners to the overall success of the project," says project delivery manager Peter Simcock.

## Timeline of what's ahead

Draft construction drawings	Late 2015
Produce draft tender documents	Early 2016
Secure alterations to the designation and regional resource consents	Early 2016
Land purchasing completed	Mid 2016
Construction begins	Mid 2016
Construction completed	Late 2018

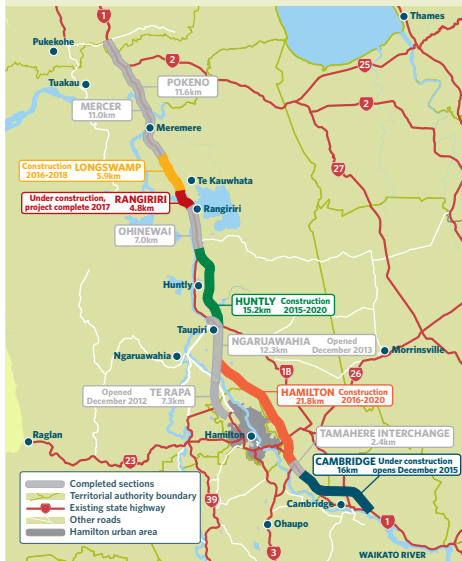
*The Longswamp Section of the Waikato Expressway links the already completed Mercer section (just south of the Hampton Downs Interchange) to the Rangiriri Section to the south. This project involves the upgrading of 5.9km of SH1 to full expressway standard.*

## Expressway overview

The Longswamp 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, project complete 2017
- Huntly - Construction 2015-2020
- Ngaruawahia - Opened December 2013
- Te Rapa - Opened December 2012
- Hamilton - Construction 2016-2020
- Cambridge - Under construction opens December 2015



## Taking it to the people

A second information day on the Longswamp Section drew about 100 people along to the Te Kauwhata Rugby Club in February.

Representatives of the Transport Agency and their engineering, property and resource management consultants were on hand to answer questions about progress on the neighbouring Longswamp and Rangiriri sections of the Expressway.

Among the people attending was Waikato District Councillor Jan Sedgwick.

"It's good to see so many local residents at the open day," Cr Sedgwick said. "I appreciate that where you have infrastructure of this size, there is always some concern about change. Personally, I think the Transport Agency and its staff have worked extremely well with the Rangiriri and Te Kauwhata communities to ensure it all goes as smoothly as possible."

Transport Agency project delivery manager Peter Simcock said much of the 5.9km Longswamp Section involved widening the existing two-lane highway to four lanes, while maintaining good connections for the local community. "The link roads improve connections for the community across the state highway and will make those journeys much safer by separating local road traffic from state highway traffic."

View the open day posters on the section website [www.nzta.govt.nz/longswamp](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/longswamp)



The Transport Agency has large roll-out maps in a permanent display in Te Kauwhata. People can look at the scale and size of both the Longswamp and Rangiriri projects in the Saviour The Taste storeroom window in Main Street.

Transport Agency project delivery manager Peter Simcock talks to Waikato District Councillor Jan Sedgwick at the open day at Te Kauwhata.

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