

# Longswamp project update

December 2018



The Whangamarino Road bridge opened Wednesday 5 December

## Bridge connects communities

The communities east and west of the Longswamp section of the Waikato Expressway are now reconnected with the opening of the Whangamarino Road bridge over the expressway.

The bridge and local road extensions on both sides mean traffic can safely access Whangamarino Road, Rodda Road, Hall Road and Summertime Lane without having to cross State Highway 1. Vehicles can use either the Hampton Downs or Te Kauwhata interchanges to access these roads.

Regular users of SH1 will have noticed the overbridge taking shape over the past months. Construction of the 6.2m-high bridge began in 2017 and completed methodically to take into account the safety of the 20,000-plus vehicles that pass it daily.

The concrete bridge has been a challenge for the Downer NZ team building the four-lane expressway section between Te Kauwhata and Hampton Downs interchanges on behalf of the NZ Transport Agency.

“The real reward is knowing that, at the end of the day, the bridge will help to keep the public safe on

Waikato’s roads. Expressway users will be able to travel without interruption and will also provide a viable way for pedestrians, cyclists, tractors and maybe even livestock to move easily throughout the area,” says Downer construction manager Darryl Walker.

“Obviously we can’t have sideroads and driveways accessing a four-lane expressway and this bridge, along with the strengthened network of local roads, means people can safely come and go from properties.”

Now that the bridge is complete, the team will continue their focus on building the remaining 5.9km of four-lane expressway.

The Longswamp section is due to be completed in late-2019.

### Bridge at a glance

- 12.3 metres wide
- 6.2m metres high
- 140 tonnes of reinforcing steel
- 850m<sup>3</sup> concrete
- Six 1050mm diameter piles to a maximum depth of 45m
- 20 precast beams (21 tonnes each and 15m long)
- Culturally designed patterns on concrete abutment panel walls



**Keeping you informed**

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

You can follow progress in the quarterly project updates, regular updates to residents of works happening in their area and links on our website and Facebook page.



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# What's been happening along the route



New wire rope is being installed as part of the preparations for the new south-bound lanes.



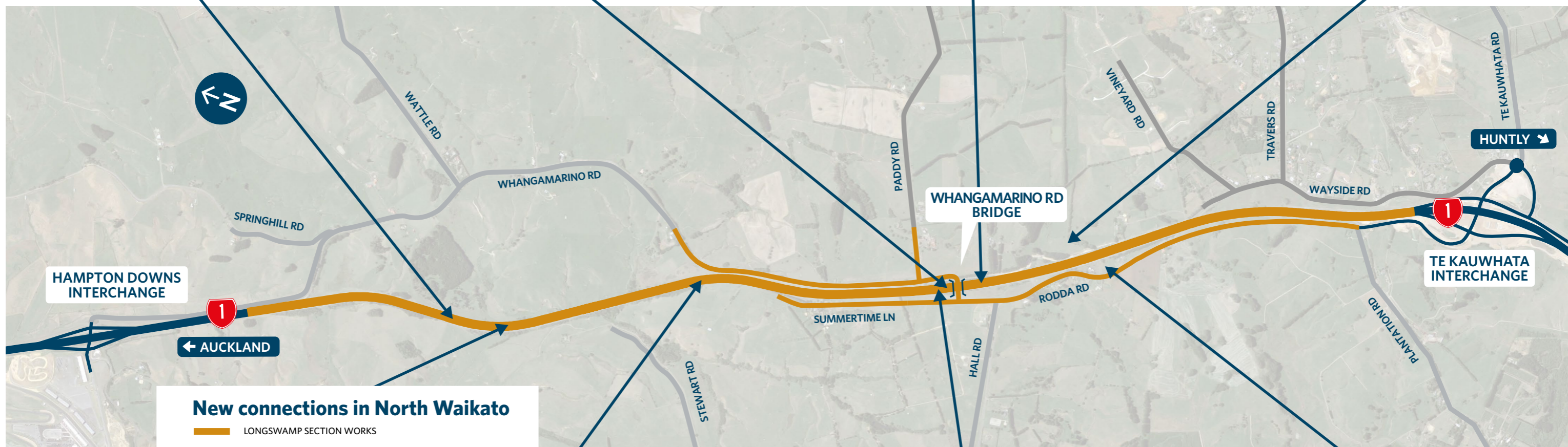
Iwi bless the bridge ahead of opening on December 5.



Drainage and pavement teams working alongside each other.



The stone columns have now been covered on the east bank, the white pipes will carry stormwater away from the road.



Construction continues for the north-bound lanes.



Subsoil drainage is installed at the edge of the future north-bound lanes.



Landscaping continues around the bridge site.

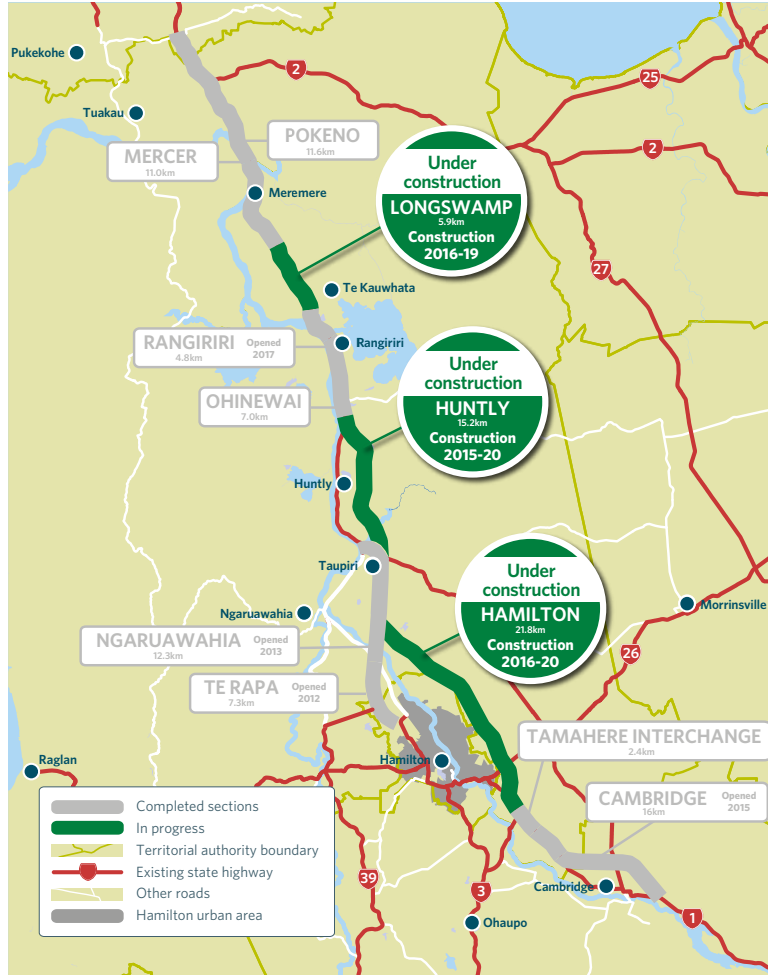


Wetland 4 on Rodda Road is the largest on the Longswamp project.



# Expressway overview

The Waikato Expressway 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 final three sections are under construction.



## STAFF PROFILE



### Fraser Sherson

Project engineer who oversaw the construction of the Whangamarino Bridge.

#### How long have you been a part of the Longswamp team?

I started about six months ago.

#### What's been your proudest moment on the project?

Completing the bridge and being able to drive the first construction vehicles across it.

#### And your most challenging moment?

Planning the bridge works around the SH1 traffic.

#### Tell us what's involved in a typical day for an engineer.

Our day starts by running a morning toolbox meeting with the crew to discuss health and safety and outline the day's activities. After that, we'll do site visits throughout the day to check that the work we're doing is to a high standard and that we're completing it safely.

When we're not on site you can find us in the office planning for upcoming works, ordering materials, identifying any risks and making sure we're sticking to our budget.

#### Any advice for the public travelling through the site?

Please keep your speed to the temporary limit of 70km/h. It's there to protect our workers who are building the new road and to protect you.

Also be patient while works are ongoing, we realise that our work might cause delays when driving through the work area. But the end result will be a fantastic new road.

## Environmental Excellence

- Downer NZ has been recognised for going above and beyond the standard of excellence for their environmental efforts on the Longswamp project.
- The team's efforts in stormwater capture and disposal saw them win the Waikato Regional Council's annual erosion and sediment control award for a medium site.
- Other sections of the Waikato Expressway were also recognised for their efforts and achievements.

## What's been happening

- Whangamarino Road Bridge completed and open to the travelling public
- Paddy Road access on to and from SH1 closed
- 4.2km of the total 6km of south-bound lanes now complete
- Traffic has been switched onto the new south-bound lanes near the Hampton Downs Interchange
- Work began to build the new north-bound lanes near the Hampton Downs Interchange
- All 276 stone columns installed at the eastern bank slip near Paddy Road in July

## What's coming up

- We will make the most of the drier months and concentrate on building the new north-bound lanes between the Te Kauwhata and Hampton Downs interchanges
- Construction will continue at the Summertime Lane intersection with Rodda Road
- An embankment will be built at the now closed SH1 and Paddy Road intersection



## Project contacts

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