

Longswamp project update

July 2018



The western abutment wall on the overbridge has a pattern designed by local iwi.

What's been happening - April to June

- Whangamarino Road Bridge beams installed and side barriers installed over the south-bound lanes
- Culturally designed concrete panels of the western retaining wall in place
- Traffic switched to sections of the south-bound lanes
- Construction under way of the new north-bound lanes
- 195 of 276 stone columns installed at the eastern bank slip near Paddy Road
- Construction of the new Wayside Road cul-de-sac began in late June

Overbridge stretching out over four lanes

The bridge connecting local roads over the Longswamp section of the Waikato Expressway is taking shape and will open later this year.

It's a challenging build with about 20,000 vehicles a day passing beside and now under the bridge which takes the extended Whangamarino Road over the expressway to connect with the extended Rodda Road on the western side.

Construction began last year and has been staged around traffic movements on the busy highway underneath - a much different build to other Waikato Expressway bridges in greenfields situations and away from traffic.

No work can be done above the live lanes of traffic, and work takes place around planned traffic switches, when lanes are moved from one part of the road to another, to reduce safety risks for motorists and crew.

In May half of the bridge's beams were placed over the south-bound lanes, which now carry all vehicles passing through the Longswamp project.

Later this month beams will be placed over new north-bound lanes, which are currently being built.

Each beam weighs 21 tonnes and requires a 350-tonne crane and an experienced team to be installed safely in place. Just south of the new bridge, 70 per cent of the 276 stone columns have been installed on the eastern bank to strengthen and build up the ground to accommodate four lanes. Usually stone columns are up to 12m deep, but these ones are up to 20m. A shaft is pushed into the ground and then rock is fed into the space created.

"The columns will increase the load-bearing capacity, meaning it can then be filled to road height and the new south-bound lanes can be built on top," says Downer NZ's Longswamp project manager Iain Fletcher.

"They will also reduce the chance of liquefaction occurring should an earthquake happen."

It is important that all vehicles stick to the reduced speed limit of 70km/h while construction is under way. This is for the safety of the travelling public and workers on the other side of the cones and barriers.

Longswamp is on track for completion in mid-2019.



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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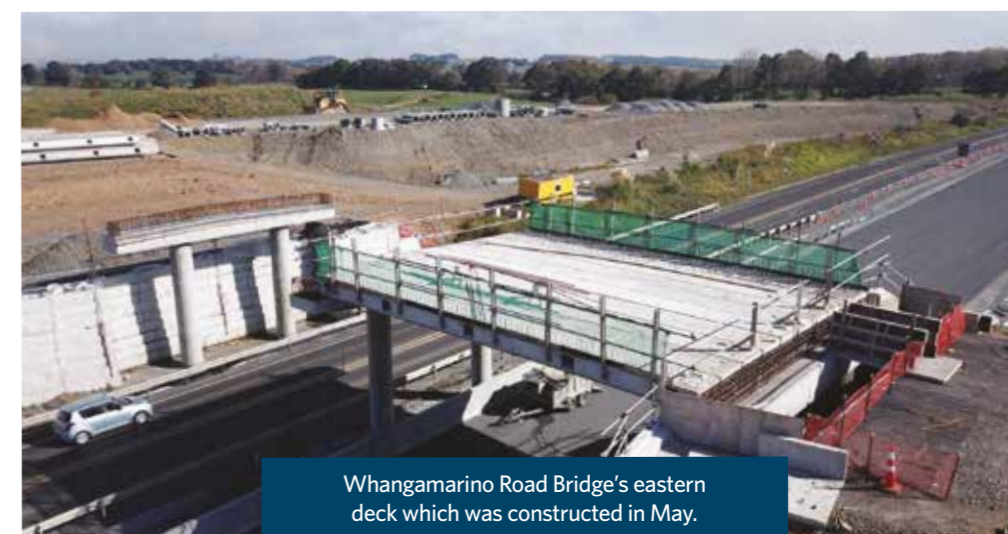
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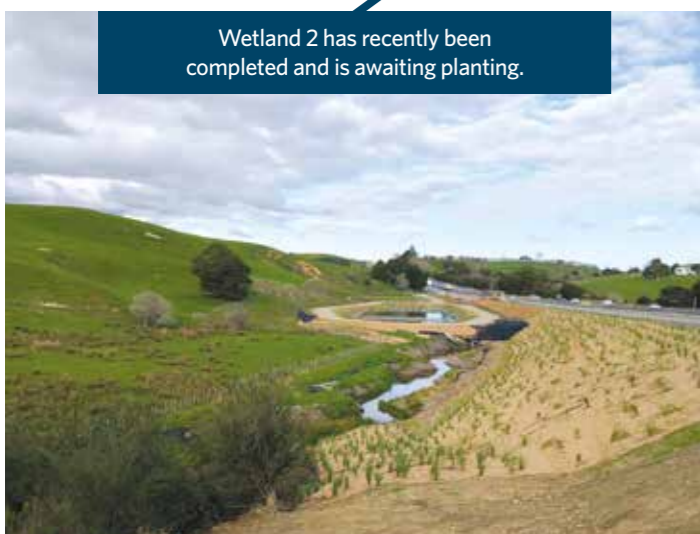
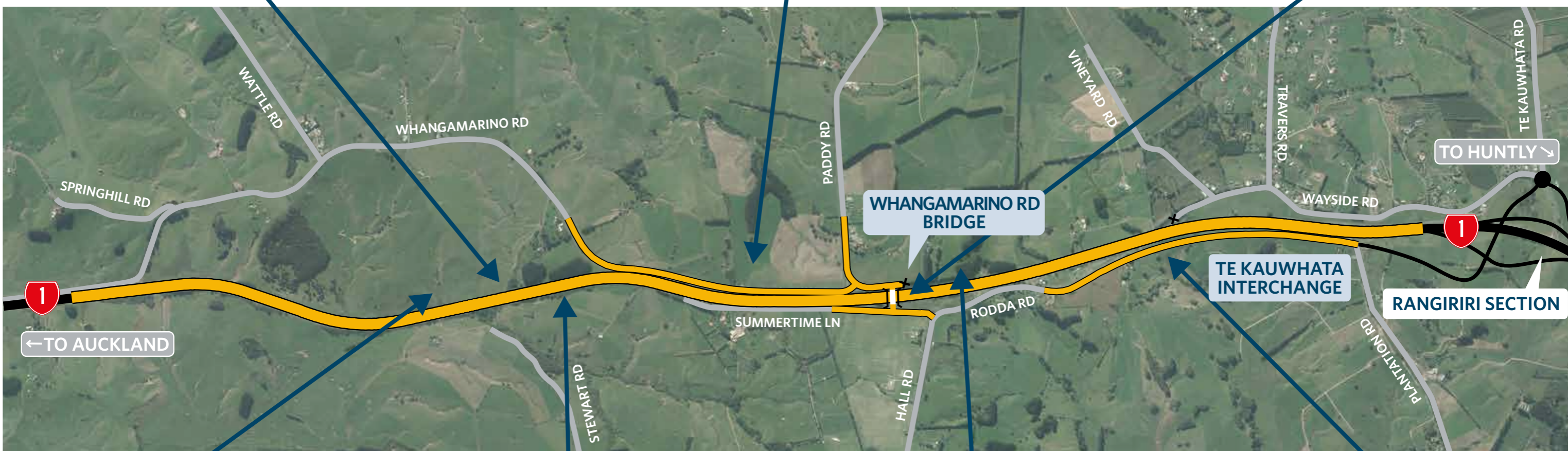
South-bound lanes being sealed.



Stormwater drains ready to be installed at Wetland 3 on Whangamarino Road.



Whangamarino Road Bridge's eastern deck which was constructed in May.



Wetland 2 has recently been completed and is awaiting planting.



South-bound lanes sealed, linemarked, barrier installed and planting done.



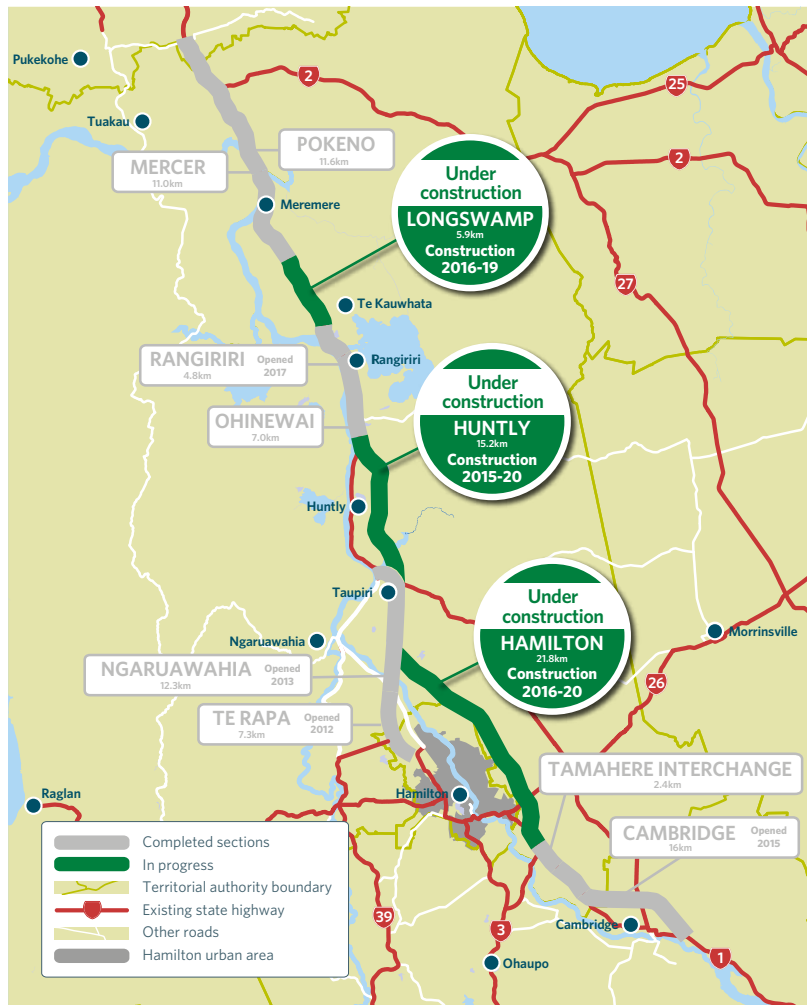
Stone columns being created to support lanes south of the overbridge.



New north-bound lanes currently under construction.

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.



By the numbers

8.2km out of 10.9km of concrete drainage pipes laid (75 per cent complete)

531,000 cubic metres of 648,000m³ of earthworks complete

What's coming up – July to September

- Whangamarino Road western bridge beams placed in July
- Local roads leading to the Whangamarino Road Bridge completed in October, with some pavement works ahead of opening to traffic
- All stone columns at the slip south of Paddy Road installed by mid-August
- Backfilling south of the bridge under way in August to allow for the construction of the new south-bound lanes.
- Three out of four wetland areas completed by late September

STAFF PROFILE



Colin Brickell Site Superintendent

How long have you worked with Downer NZ?

I've been with the company for more than eight years and have worked on seven projects during that time.

Seven projects in eight years? Tell us more about those.

I started on the SH20 to SH1 Link in Auckland then moved to Christchurch to help with the rebuild. From Christchurch I worked on a few throughout Auckland and Waikato which led me to Longswamp.

How long have you been working on the Longswamp project?

I actually poured the concrete base for the site office on Paddy Road and was one of the first to turn on the lights in October 2016, well before construction started in early 2017.

What does a site superintendent do?

We manage the crews onsite and help to make sure construction is safe and running smoothly. On a usual day I'll do a Toolbox Talk with my crews, liaise between the crews and the engineers, manage safety and quality controls, and will plan for upcoming work.

What's your biggest achievement while working on Longswamp?

Surviving 2017's winter! It was one of the wettest on record but we managed to stick to the programme despite the rain.

What are your hobbies outside of work?

I've rebuilt a few classic cars in my time, the two most memorable were a XK150 Jaguar and an E-Type Jaguar. They took about five years to finish a piece.

Do you have any advice for someone thinking about working in construction?

Construction is one of the greatest industry's in the world. If you're prepared to work hard you'll go far.

There's a big holiday coming up, where are you off to?

My wife and I will be taking in the sights Eastern Europe for a while. I'm really looking forward to it.



Project contacts

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