



# Taipā Bridge replacement project

PROJECT UPDATE

APRIL 2018



Causeway construction on the east side of Taipā River. Photo: Malcolm Pullman

## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

The team has started earthworks and reclamation on the east side of the Taipā River. Topsoil and mangroves have been cleared, tidal mud removed and layered material built up using strong geo-cloth to control sediment. The occasional storm has kept things interesting since works started in February.

Works are also starting on the west side of Taipā River adjacent to the intersection of Oruru Road and SH10.

The bridge team start on site in early April. They will begin by building a temporary bridge on the east side causeway from which a large, tracked crane will operate. The crane will have a reach that spans the full length of the new bridge. The team will then start piling work which involves working in the water. Bridge construction works will continue through the winter months and into 2019.

## FAST FACTS

- » Project length 890m including landscaping and urban design.
- » New, two-lane bridge 107m long with 3 piers in waterway compared with 6 piers for existing bridge.
- » 4000m<sup>2</sup> mangroves removed.
- » 1920+m<sup>3</sup> of rock revetment/coastal rock protection.
- » 1100m<sup>3</sup> cut, 13,600m<sup>3</sup> fill.
- » 700m of new drainage swales.
- » 100m drainage channel diversion.
- » 700m of new shared path/footpath.
- » 1500+m<sup>2</sup> landscape planting.
- » 3500+m line markings.
- » 15 new street lights.





Strong geo-cloth is laid to contain fines (sediment) as layered material is built up to form the causeway. Photo: Malcolm Pullman

## KAITIAKI MONITORING PROTECTING OUR HISTORY

Taipā's rich history means it's possible that project works will lead to the discovery of culturally and archaeologically significant sites and objects. Monitoring by kaitiaki (guardians) is critical to the safety and care of any discoveries during excavation works.

Kaitiaki coordinators Tinalee Yates Bassett and Glen Larkin Kaiwaka monitor work on site in partnership with machine operators and site crew to ensure the protection and preservation of the coastal environment, archaeological sites and taonga tuturu (objects that relate to Maori culture, history or society). Both Glen and Tinalee emphasised that ensuring the wellbeing of kaimoana (seafood) in the estuary is paramount.

The role of kaitiakitanga (guardianship) is underpinned by the Resource Management Act 1991, Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014, Protected Objects Act 1975 and the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011.



Taipā's existing single lane bridge has six piers in the waterway compared to the new bridge which will have only three piers in the waterway. Photo: Malcolm Pullman

The project archaeologist Brooke Jamieson advises the planning and construction teams of areas where there is the potential or likelihood of a discovery, and is involved whenever a discovery is made. Local knowledge is invaluable to the assessment process. Brooke draws information from a wealth of historical resources – written, visual and oral.

If you have history to share, please contact Jenny Scott whose contact details appear on page 4.

The Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 ensures that anyone undertaking work that may damage, modify or destroy an archaeological site (known or unknown) must obtain an archaeological authority prior to starting work; the project holds this authority. The Northland Regional Council and Far North District Council monitor how we comply with our consent conditions.



Trucks carrying out excavated tidal mud and bringing in material access site directly off SH10 at the intersection of Taipā Tides Drive. Photo: Malcolm Pullman



## SITE ACCESS

Works initially started on the east side of Taipā River with machinery accessing the site at the intersection of SH10 and Taipā Tides Drive. Project vehicles turn onto and off SH10 next to the single lane Taipā Bridge at the site compound. Site parking is on Taipā Tides Drive which has also increased vehicle movements at this intersection.

Site Manager Evan Tahera says project drivers have noted the consideration and friendliness of other drivers travelling through the site and extends his thanks on behalf of the team.

The local signs on the grass verge at the intersection of SH10 and Oruru Road are being removed to start works on the west side of Taipā River. Initially relatively minor works will be carried out alongside the roadway. This intersection will remain open at all times and traffic management will be in place to keep everyone safe. Expect occasional short delays.



SH10 and Oruru Road intersection will remain open under traffic management throughout works on this side of Taipā River.  
Photo: Malcolm Pullman

## INTRODUCING THE TEAM



**Pip Jecentho** is a sixth generation Northlander who has spent his life in the Far North. He attended Taipā Area School. His first job was in traffic management and he was encouraged to enter a trade so trained as an electrician before changing course to train as an excavator operator. Pip has worked as an operator for the past 18 years and enjoys his work. Highly experienced, Pip's skills and knowledge are integral to the construction of the new causeways on either side of the river. 'I feel part of local history in the making which means a lot to me.'

Pip's loving being a first-time father to his recently born son, and enjoys speedway, fishing and riding dirt bikes.



**Imogen Webb** initially worked in consultancy engineering after completing a Diploma of Engineering at UNITEC. Moving across to construction engineering has brought Imogen up to Taipā in the role of site engineer. She loves working outdoors and enjoys the challenges of earthworks in the coastal marine area as the east side causeway is constructed.

Currently one of Imogen's key tasks is to monitor construction quality and she is also a member of the structures (bridge building) team.

Based in Kerikeri, Imogen rides both motorcross and dirt bikes at a competitive level.



### PROJECT CONTACTS

Please contact Jenny Scott 0800 900 007 or [jenny.scott@fultonhogan.com](mailto:jenny.scott@fultonhogan.com)  
Keep up with progress at: [www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/connecting-northland/twin-coast-discovery-route/taipa-bridge/](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/connecting-northland/twin-coast-discovery-route/taipa-bridge/)

