

2 Waikare Gorge

We're rebuilding stronger and safer highways for thriving East Coast communities

Transport Rebuild East Coast



State Highway 2 across Waikare Gorge

The Waikare Gorge faces frequent slips and rockfalls, causing up to six-hour long detours along the East Coast.

TREC and NZTA are focused on building greater resilience into the existing road, as work on the long-term realignment project continues.



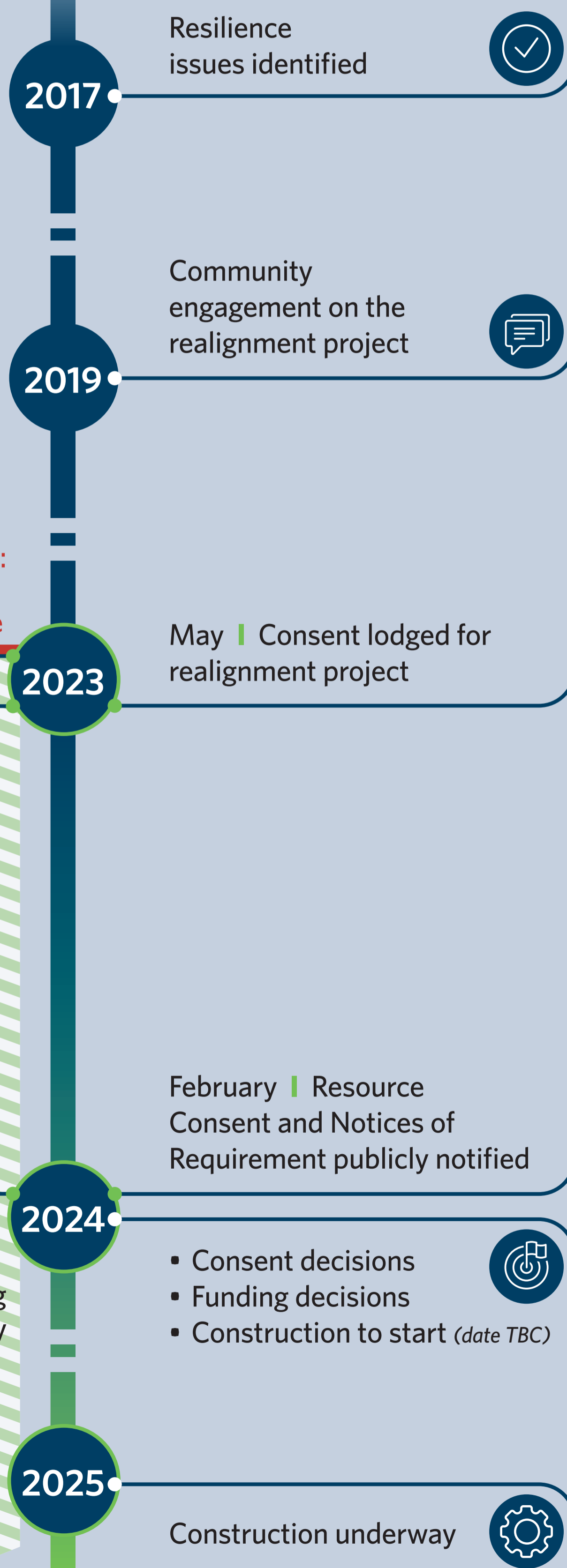
February | The old bridge collapsed during Cyclone Gabrielle



May | A temporary Bailey bridge opened, reconnecting Wairoa and Napier



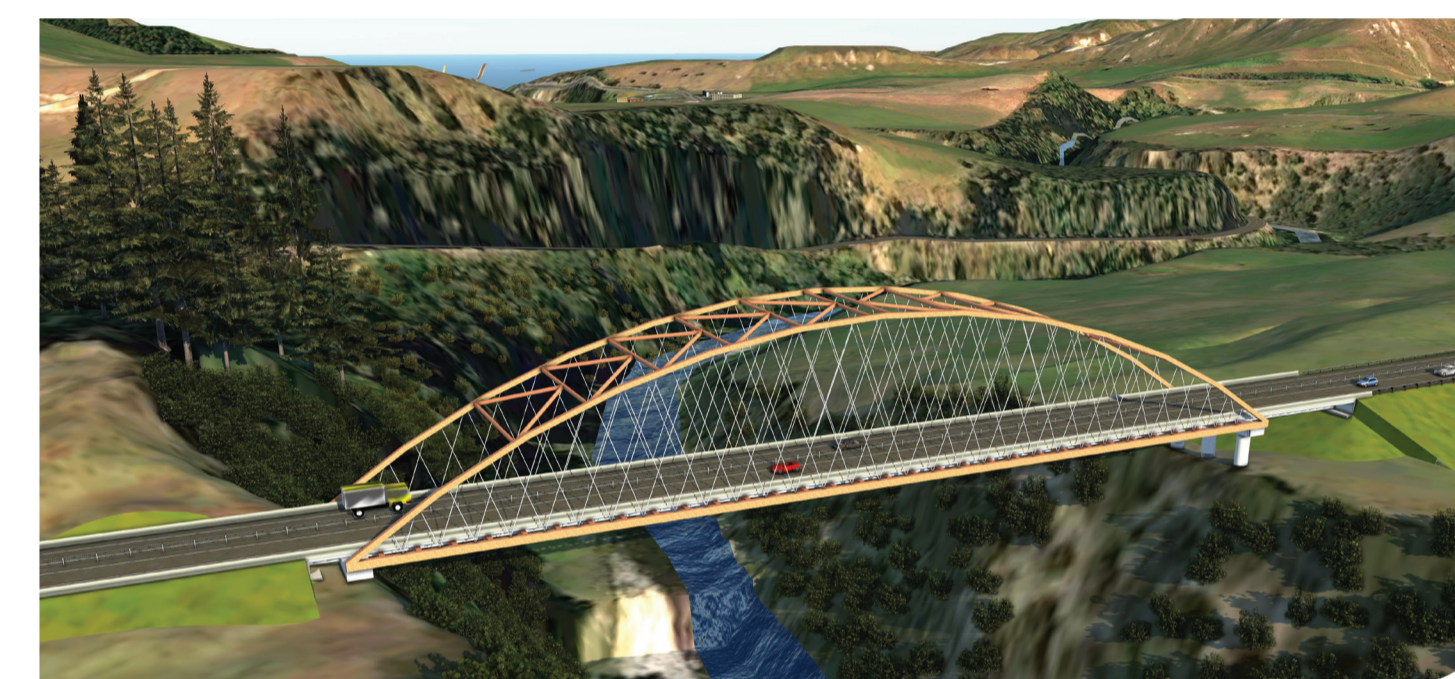
February | The old bridge is demolished



Waikare Gorge realignment project

NZTA has been working on the Waikare Gorge realignment project since before the cyclone. Extensive engagement with iwi partners, landowners, councils and community led to the preferred realignment route.

This option, west of the current state highway is 4km long and includes a new 160 metres long and 60 metres high bridge across the Waikare Gorge. The project is currently in detailed design.



An artist's impression of the proposed arch bridge spanning the Waikare Gorge. The design does not have any piers to reduce environmental impacts.

Latest news

Resource Consent and Notices of Requirement have been publicly notified by councils and submissions closed in March 2024.

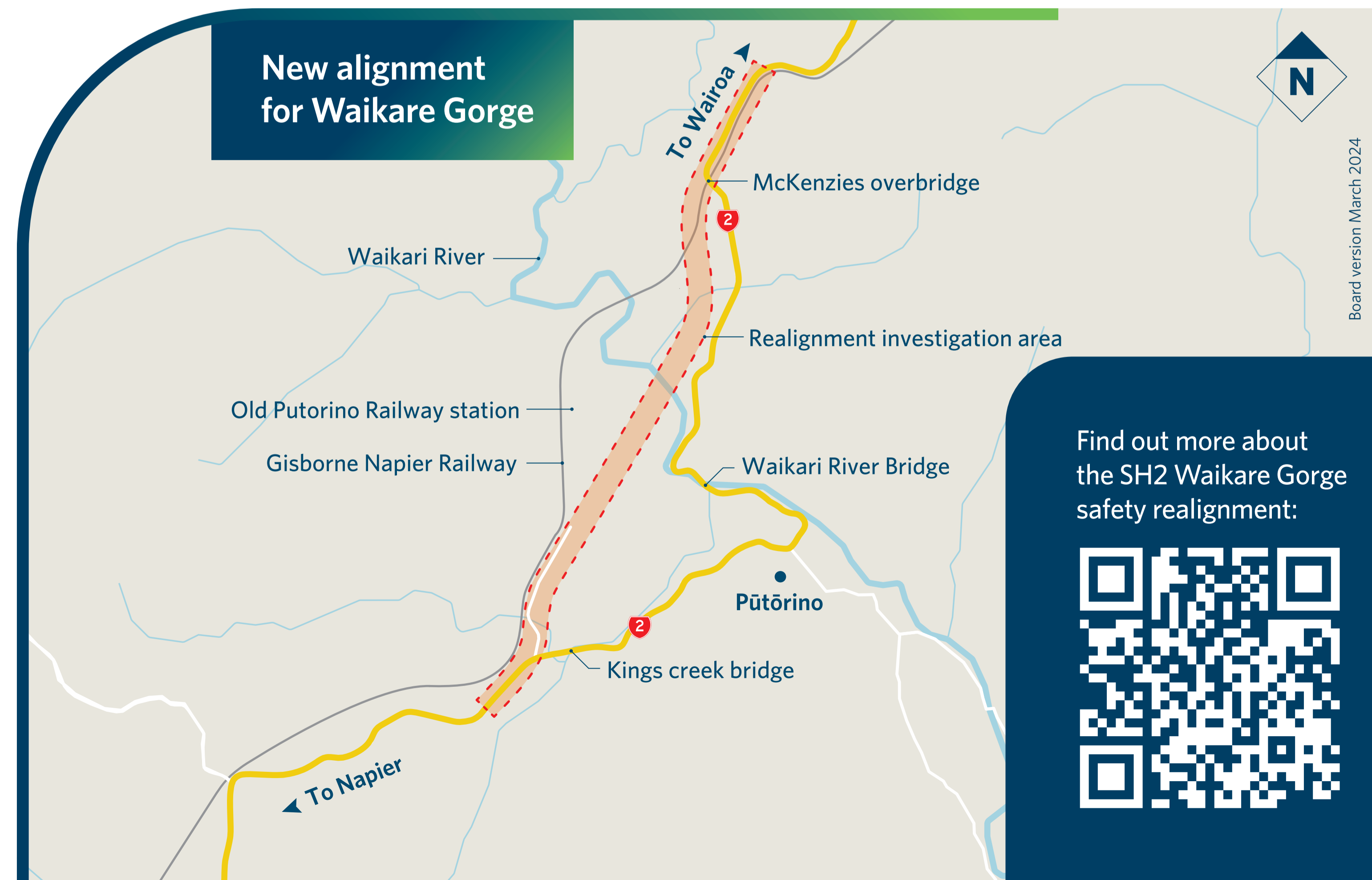
The councils will consider submissions and inform us of their decisions. We are currently preparing for construction with geotechnical investigations, ecological surveys and detailed design underway.

The team is also working closely with landowners and our iwi partners.

What's next

Once consents, approvals and construction funding are secured we will communicate a construction start date. Construction is expected to take at least 3 years.

Programme is subject to securing consent, property approvals and funding



Find out more about the SH2 Waikare Gorge safety realignment:

