



Environment



Protecting the environment

A key focus for the project was to minimise the environmental impact throughout construction.

Careful planning and identification of risks was carried out to ensure protection of the environment.



The site won the 2015 Waikato Regional Council Erosion and Sediment Control Large Site of the Year Award.



Bat facts

An important requirement was the management and mitigation of long-tailed bat habitat.

- 365,000 native and exotic trees were planted on the project. Some of which were planted to provide shelter and food for the bats.
- Trees planted include oak, horse chestnut, poplar and native species Kahikatea and Totara.
- Fast growing poplar and slower growing oak trees planted in the Karapiro Gully will eventually provide homes for the bats, where they can sleep and breed.
- Of the two species of bat in New Zealand, the long-tailed bat is more common than the lesser short-tailed bat.
- A third species, the greater short-tailed bat, is believed to have become extinct in the 1960s.
- Long-tailed bats have a body the size of an adult person's thumb.
- They can fly at a top speed of 60 km/h.
- Bats are New Zealand's only native land-based mammals giving birth to live young, which can fly after 4 or 5 weeks.

Mitigation measures used during construction



Suppressing dust



Monitoring of bat movement



Erosion and sediment control



Culvert water diffuser

