



# Forgotten World Highway



## Sealing the Tāngarākau Gorge

NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi thanks residents, local businesses and visitors for their support and cooperation while work was carried out in the Tāngarākau Gorge over the summer.

Crews were able to get a significant amount done with daily road closures in place. Five kilometres of road through the gorge was sealed bringing the total length sealed to 7km. Three retaining walls were also built to improve the resilience of the road.

Once the weather warms up, the final 5.7km section of road will be sealed and all going well, we expect the project to be completed by the end of the year. For the remainder of the winter months crews are undertaking drainage and retaining wall works under stop/go traffic control with delays of no more than 15 minutes.

We are now considering how traffic is managed when sealing of the last 5.7km of road is undertaken this summer. Due to the narrowness of the road and the machinery required to do this work, we will need to close the road at times.

We want to limit the impact on the local community and businesses, so would appreciate your feedback on what works best for you in regard to closure times. This feedback will inform our traffic management plans.

You can email feedback to [fwh@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:fwh@nzta.govt.nz) or come along to our drop-in session at the Whangamōmona Hotel on Thursday 29 August to speak to us in person. Call in anytime between 5:30pm and 7pm.

## Kahouri Stream Bridge now complete

The new two-lane bridge on State Highway 43 east of Stratford is now complete, making journeys along the picturesque Forgotten World Highway safer and more efficient for trucks, locals, and tourists.

Construction on the \$8m bridge and straighter road alignment began in June 2023 and was opened to traffic, on schedule, in May this year. Both lanes of the bridge are 3.5 metres wide with a 1 metre verge on each side to better accommodate increased traffic volumes, reducing delays that came with the existing single lane bridge.

The one-lane bridge, built in 1908, remains structurally sound, and is being retained for people to walk and cycle across.

Adding to the project, local iwi Ngāti Ruanui and Ngāti Maru have collaborated on cultural artwork which has been sandblasted into the bridge.





The individual sculptures together form the waka belonging to Tamatea-Pōkai-Whenua.

## Series of sculptures planned for the Forgotten World Highway

A series of sculptures, soon to be erected along the Forgotten World Highway, will enrich the journey for visitors and locals by providing insight into the cultural significance and history of the area.

The work is being delivered as part of safety and wayfinding improvements which has seen 1200 metres of roadside barrier installed across 11 sites, 230 safety signs erected, and improvements made to rest and stopping areas along the route.

The sculptures are expected to become a key attraction for people visiting the Forgotten World Highway. They will join the existing information boards along the route which depict the pioneering history of the area, adding another dimension to the journey for tourists.

The sculptures will be erected in or near stopping areas providing travellers an opportunity to break their journey, while enjoying the stunning scenery and learning more about the history of the area.

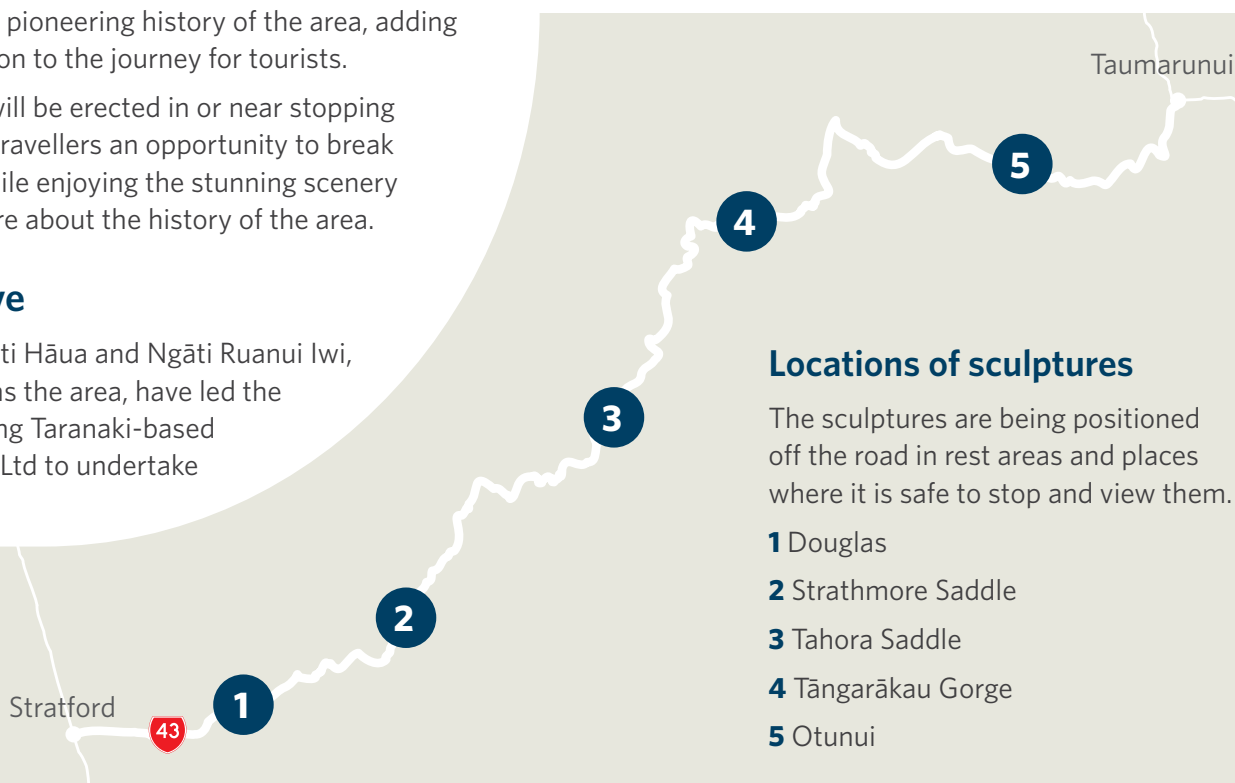
## The narrative

Ngāti Maru, Ngāti Hāua and Ngāti Ruanui Iwi, whose rohe spans the area, have led the project, employing Taranaki-based consultant Tihei Ltd to undertake the design.

The design concept for the sculptures is centred around the explorations of Tamatea-Pōkai-Whenua up the Whanganui River and in areas of East Taranaki. Tamatea-Pōkai-Whenua is a legendary traveller in Māori tradition who came to Aotearoa from Hawaiiki.

Five sculptures will be erected in key locations along the route, each representing a section of Te Karaerae, the waka belonging to Tamatea-Pōkai-Whenua.

The sculptures will be made from water cut corten steel which is long lasting and able to withstand the elements. Each sculpture will stand 3 metres high and will feature imagery and text, which tells the story of the time Tamatea-Pōkai-Whenua spent in that location and the people he met there.



## Locations of sculptures

The sculptures are being positioned off the road in rest areas and places where it is safe to stop and view them.

- 1 Douglas
- 2 Strathmore Saddle
- 3 Tahora Saddle
- 4 Tāngarākau Gorge
- 5 Otunui



## Contact

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