

# Southern Links project update

November 2018



Plan of the new Cobham Drive/Wairere Drive intersection

## First Southern Links project about to start

Work will soon be underway on building the infrastructure to enable more homes to be built quickly in the Peacocke growth area. This signals the start of the Southern Links project which involves approximately 21km of state highway, two new Waikato River crossings and 11km of urban arterial roads inside Hamilton's Peacocke growth area.

Hamilton City Council's 2018-2028 10-Year Plan, which came into effect on 1 July, is taking advantage of a 10-year interest-free loan provided by the Government's Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) and significant NZ Transport Agency subsidies to develop Peacocke.

The first project to get underway is the connection between Wairere Drive and Cobham Drive. Other major projects which will support growth in the Peacocke area include:

- a new bridge over the Waikato River and connecting roads
- a new east-west minor arterial road from SH3/Ohaupo Rd to Peacockes Rd
- upgrading parts of Peacockes Rd to an urban standard
- new wastewater pump stations and mains
- water bulk mains
- associated stormwater infrastructure

The roading infrastructure is part of Council's designated Southern Links network.

A new roundabout at SH3/Ohaupo Rd to the south of Dixon Rd will begin construction in 2019, providing access to stage 1 of the Peacocke Structure Plan area.

The Council has recently completed tendering for design work for the new bridge

over the Waikato River and connecting roads. The aim is to have the new bridge and strategic wastewater infrastructure built within five years, with the rest of infrastructure completed by 2025.

Most property owners with land within the designation boundary have been approached directly by The Property Group, who are managing the property purchase work on the Council's behalf.

Construction of the north-south major arterial road is not part of the accelerated programme, however some active land acquisition is still planned between Peacockes Rd and the planned east-west minor arterial road.

The Council will hold a public open day early next year to provide an opportunity to talk with Council staff about the plans for the Peacocke area.

Meanwhile, the NZ Transport Agency is continuing to acquire where necessary, and in some cases dispose of surplus parts of previously acquired properties, along the proposed route of Southern Links through the Waikato and Waipa Districts.

The Transport Agency is also working closely with Council on the Peacocke development, including the Wairere Drive and Cobham Drive intersection and the SH3/Ohaupo Road roundabout.

Construction of Southern Links was not included in the 2018-21 National Land Transport Programme (NLTP) which means there is no timeline for construction of the Transport Agency part of the network.

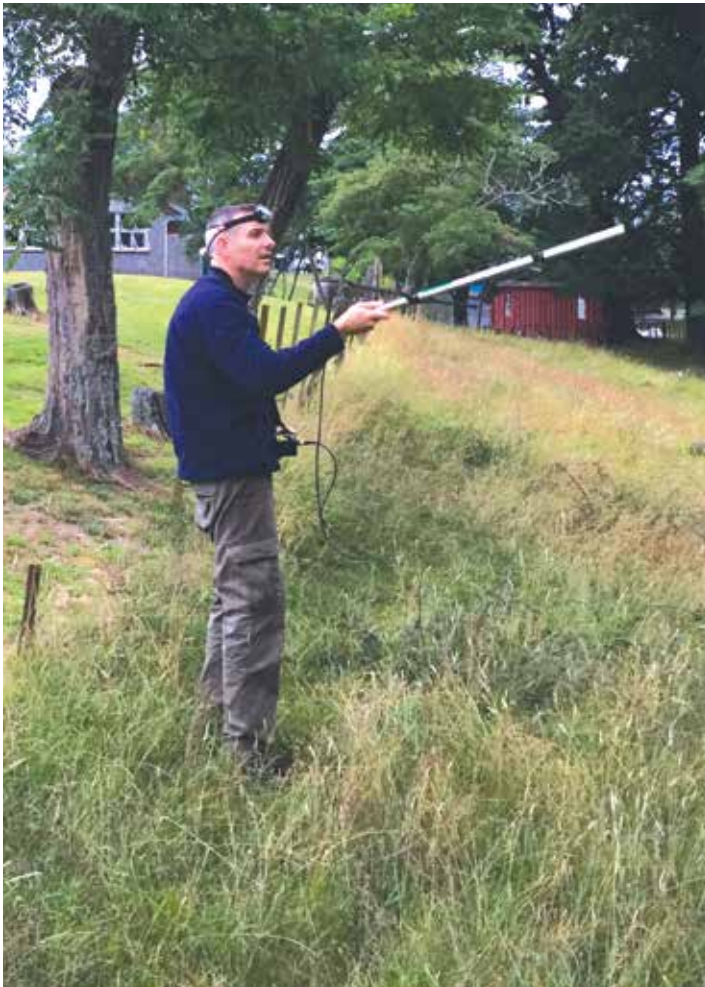


- TRANSPORT AGENCY HIGHWAY CORRIDOR
- HCC TRANSPORT CORRIDOR
- WAIKATO EXPRESSWAY
- - - WAIKATO EXPRESSWAY UNDER CONSTRUCTION
- STATE HIGHWAY
- - - LOCAL AUTHORITY BOUNDARY

# Understanding Southern Links ecology

Ecological monitoring for the Southern Links Project has continued to develop our knowledge of the species that are present in southern Hamilton and how they are using the local habitat.

Monitoring by consultancy AECOM on behalf of Hamilton City Council and the NZ Transport Agency has found bats at a number of sites south of Hamilton. Radio tracking in January and March this year identified 28 trees which are bat roosts. It also found that the stream gullies and the Waikato River were important habitat for bats, and that they would fly to feed at isolated stand of kahikatea, exotic forest and over water.



Acoustic bat monitoring

Surveys of lizards confirmed that a native species called copper skink is present within long grassland, beneath dense patches of a plant called Tradescantia, log piles and corrugated metal sheets.

Bird counts were undertaken in summer and winter 2018 and these recorded 37 native and exotic bird species. It found that the bird community was dominated by introduced species, with goldfinch and chaffinch the most common, while the most common native species were fantail and silvereye.

Monitoring for bats and birds will continue in 2018/19, so you may see AECOM branded vehicles out late at night on the roads or parked up in unexpected places.

This information is being used to develop mitigation plans which are aimed at mitigating the effect of building the road on local wildlife.



Copper skink



Bat with tracking device attached



## Any questions?

For more information about Southern Links contact the communications manager for the relevant local authority area:

### FOR HAMILTON CITY

**Nathanael Savage**

Southern Links Communication, Consultation and Property Liaison Manager

Hamilton City Council

**Phone:** 07 838 6699

**Email:** southernlinks@hcc.govt.nz

**Website:** www.hamilton.govt.nz/southernlinks

### FOR THE WAIPA AND WAIKATO DISTRICTS

**Simon Brandon**

Southern Links Communication, Consultation and Property Liaison Manager

NZ Transport Agency

**Phone:** 07 958 7888

**Email:** southernlinks@nzta.govt.nz

**Website:** www.nzta.govt.nz/southernlinks