



## Tauranga Eastern Link

### Project update

### Two years in and making progress

It has been just over two years since the \$455 million Tauranga Eastern Link (TEL) construction contract was awarded to the Fulton Hogan HEB Construction Alliance - the Bay's largest ever roading project.

With much of the 23 kilometre project generally out of view to the public, you will be surprised at just how much progress has been made.

#### Completed five out of the seven enabling works projects.

The completed projects include:

- Building the Truman Lane extension at Mangatawa.
- Extending Kaituna Road.
- Installing a new pump station at the Kaituna River.
- Realigning the Tauranga City Council's bulk watermain alongside State Highway 2.
- Realigning the Tauranga City Council's bulk watermain at Parton Road.

#### Shifted 1.8 million cubic metres of material.

The material has been used to construct the foundation for the new road, as pre-load, and fill for the various bridge embankments.

#### Installed over 30 kilometres of fencing and cleared over 19 hectares of vegetation, including kiwifruit orchards.

This is to make way for approximately 550,000 square metres of new road and approximately 300,000 new native plants.

#### A comprehensive drainage network is being installed throughout the project.

In the Te Maunga section alone, over two kilometres of pipe ranging from 300mm to 1200mm in diameter, 45 manholes and 49 cesspits will link the existing network with the new.

#### Installed over 1,000,000 lineal metres of wick drains.

The wick drains provide a flow path for water trapped deep within the soil, helping it to escape. This method combined with pre-load material placed on top helps to significantly decrease the length of time it takes to compact the ground below.

#### Work on four of the seven TEL structures is well underway:

- Maketu Road bridge
- East Coast Main Trunk (ECMT) rail bridge
- Mangatawa interchange
- Kaituna River bridge

### Changes ahead for drivers

Over the next six months a number of areas will undergo changes to the current traffic layouts to allow construction in the area to progress.

Advance notice of the changes will be provided via roadside signage and advertising, where appropriate.

#### Te Maunga

State Highway 2 - both lanes of traffic will shift onto the new Tauranga Eastern Link northbound lanes to allow construction of the southbound lanes and a new residential access road. The transition will be fairly straightforward as the new northbound lanes are adjacent to the existing state highway.

#### Mangatawa

State Highway 2 - traffic will be shifted onto the new southbound lanes.

#### Domain Road interchange

The new Domain Road interchange will consist of two bridges and two roundabouts and within the next six months some changes will be happening as the new interchange takes shape. When driving in the area you will see:

- Domain Road and State Highway 2 traffic diverted onto a temporary roundabout
- The northbound slip lane will re-open.

#### Parton Road

Parton Road traffic will be shifted over to a long term temporary diversion, which lies adjacent to the existing road. This road is required to allow construction of the new Parton Road overbridge.

#### Maketu Road

A bridge is being constructed to take the Tauranga Eastern Link over Maketu Road. A small section of Maketu Road will be diverted temporarily onto a new section of Te Tumu Road to allow construction activity to continue.



One of the Kaituna River bridge steel sections

### How are we tracking?

Two years in and we are still on track to open the new 23km Tauranga Eastern Link toll road in 2016.

## Building a bridge over the Kaituna River

Early Monday morning, 5 November, the first of over 270 steel sections was delivered to the Kaituna River bridge site by road, all the way from Napier.

Spanning 25.9 metres and weighing 17.6 tonnes, the first steel section was successfully put in place, marking a milestone for the Tauranga Eastern Link. Placement of all the steel sections is expected to be completed in early 2013.

The Kaituna River bridge will be a four span bridge which will cross over a realigned Bell Road and the Kaituna River. At 150 metres in length, it is the longest of the seven bridges being built on the Tauranga Eastern Link. The bridge will carry four lanes of traffic, two in each direction, separated by a median barrier. A three metre wide pedestrian/cycleway will be constructed on the eastern side (Maketu) of the bridge.

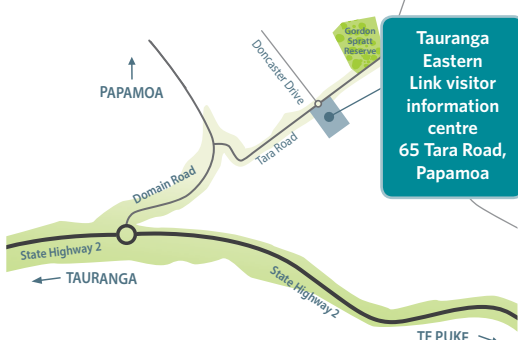
### So what have we done?

- More than 4,500 stone columns, up to a depth of 17 metres, have been driven into the soft ground on both sides of the river. Stone columns stabilise the ground beneath the bridge embankments, strengthening them against liquefaction in the event of seismic activity.
- A total of 68 piles were driven to finished depths of up to 55 metres for the two bridge abutments and three piers.
- To see month-by-month time lapse construction of the Kaituna River bridge visit the [www.nzta.govt.nz/tel](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/tel) website, and in the gallery you can view time lapse construction footage taken since January 2012.

## Visitor information centre - 2013 summer series

We're opening the TEL visitor information centre on a Saturday for three months. The TEL Summer Series is an opportunity for members of the public to take a look at the latest construction footage, images and other displays in the weekend.

- Saturday 19 January - 10.00am to 1.00pm
- Saturday 16 February - 10.00am to 1.00pm
- Saturday 16 March - 10.00am to 1.00pm
- Normal opening hours: Mon - Fri - 8.00am to 4.30pm



2011

2012



Mangatawa interchange



Domain Road interchange



East of Parton Road



Kaituna River bridge



Paengaroa

## Our contact details

MAIL TO  
Tauranga Eastern Link Team  
NZ Transport Agency  
PO Box 430,  
Tauranga 3140

free phone 0800 TEL INFO (0800 835 463)  
email [taurangaeasternlink@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:taurangaeasternlink@nzta.govt.nz)  
For more information visit [www.nzta.govt.nz/tel](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/tel)