



Waikato Expressway



Ngaruawahia Section Waikato River Bridge

The bridge

The Waikato River Bridge is a key feature of the Ngaruawahia section of the Waikato Expressway. It is one of seven bridges being built along the 12.4km section and is the most complex of these. When complete, it will span 140 metres across the Waikato River.



Artist's impression of the Waikato River Bridge

Construction

The bridge is being built in a number of stages and will be constructed using four distinctive 'V' piers. The 'V' shape allows the bridge to be built without needing to have piers in the river during construction, or once the bridge is complete.

In early 2013, bridge beams will start to be assembled on the banks of the river. Once the beams are across the river, precast concrete panels will be lifted into place by a crane, before construction begins on the final concrete deck and barriers.



Waikato River Bridge construction, April 2012



Waikato River Bridge pier construction



Waikato River Bridge pier construction



Waikato River Bridge site



Bridge 'V' piers under construction, October 2012

Interesting facts

- The bridge will use 630 tonnes of reinforcing steel - that's about the same weight as 14 fully loaded Fonterra milk tankers.
- Approximately 700 tonnes of structural steel will be used to build the bridge - that's about the same weight as a herd of 85 adult African elephants.
- About 2250 cubic metres of concrete will be used - around the same weight as five and a half jumbo jets.

To learn more about the Waikato Expressway and the river bridge, go to: www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/waikato-expressway

Or to view a time lapse video of the bridge's construction, see:

www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/waikato-expressway/webcams.html

www.facebook.com/waikatoexpressway

