

## 2 Looking after our environment

The Hawke's Bay Expressway project is carried out with care for the environment and the wellbeing of our community. We have comprehensive environmental controls in place and aim to minimise construction impacts and enhance sustainability.

How we manage the effects of construction on our environment:

### Vegetation

- Mark out areas of vegetation to be retained
- Collect vegetation cleared for future use (eg collaboration with mana whenua to relocate harakeke/flax following Section 1 vegetation clearance).



### Protecting our wildlife

Our ecologists have surveyed the entire project area and its surrounds and have recorded indigenous bird species and lizards. The surveying is a legislative requirement under the Wildlife Act 1953, which safeguards all of New Zealand's native species from harm.

If species are found, ecologists put out traps to safely catch lizards without harming them, then work with Department of Conservation (DOC) and relocate them to an approved site before any work starts.

- We have searched for geckos, lizards and birds. The area within the project extents is confirmed to be clear.
- Identify times when vegetation can be removed so as to minimise potential effects on bird nesting and breeding season.

### Streams and rivers

- Create temporary stream channels to maintain water flows and fish passage when working in a stream
- Minimise duration if work in streams
- Prevent spillages from machinery and equipment into or near streams
- Comprehensive erosion and sediment controls to minimise sediment runoff to adjacent streams.



### Stormwater treatment

Permanent stormwater treatment devices will be installed to catch runoff from the new road carriageway and treat it to a high level before it is discharged to natural water courses. Around 80% of all particles and contaminants which gather on roads will be removed using naturalised swales, stormwater pond systems and engineering treatments.

### Air quality management

Effective air quality management during roading construction projects involves a combination of proactive measures (eg water spraying, covered loads) and continuous monitoring in line with our management plans.