

# Managing noise – Taradale Road to Pākōwhai Road (Section 1)

We understand that traffic and construction noise can impact people's lives. We aim to be a good neighbour and we take the wellbeing of our communities seriously.

Understanding and mitigating noise is an important part of the project.

To lessen noise impacts we will consider:

- Low-noise road surfaces: Open-graded porous asphalt (OGPA) is considered for the section between Taradale Road and the Tutaekuri River Bridge. OGPA has a porous structure that helps to absorb sound and improve drainage during rain. This makes it quieter than traditional road surfaces like chipseal.
- Audible rumble-strips will not be used near houses.
- Careful design of bridge joints to avoid unnecessary noise from vehicles passing over uneven surfaces and creating impact type noise.

## Trees, vegetation and landscaping

Trees do not significantly reduce road-traffic noise unless planted very densely and deeply. As a general rule - if air can pass through, so can sound.

When visual barriers like trees are removed, people perceive more noise because they can see the traffic and the masking noise from rustling leaves is gone. Visual screening by trees can help reduce the perception of noise. The Hawke's Bay Expressway project will look for opportunities for landscaping to visually screen road traffic.

## Managing construction noise

We are committed to effectively managing construction noise and vibration for nearby residents.

Some effective methods include:

- Scheduling of noisy activities (eg during mid-day hours)
- Temporary noise barriers
- Keeping the community informed about the construction schedule and expected noise levels.

