



Ensuring the ecological stability of our precious land

Looking After Our Environment



New Zealand Government

Some of the tools you can expect to see in our toolbox are described below

The final stages of construction include planting. We will focus on using local native species and integrating constructed elements of the road (such as embankments) into the existing environment.

This stage is the most important for settling the road into the environment and it will take a number of years before vegetation grows to achieve the "picture perfect" outcomes.

Moving native fish species in earthworks area to protect our nature species during construction

Through our investigation we will identify environmental features within the corridor. Each of these will be considered during the design and consenting process. During construction, and once the new road is complete, the NZ Transport Agency is committed to the ongoing environmental protection of our streams, flora and fauna.

How do we do this? We work with our experts to understand how the environment behaves and how we can manage our construction work to either avoid or manage any long term effects. We are developing design principles and a framework that will be used to prepare a Construction and Environmental Management Plan. This plan is a toolbox of methods to manage construction effects.

Although most of the land used for the new road has been cleared and converted for various purposes, there are some remnant pockets of indigenous vegetation, in particular at the western end of the Manawatū Gorge. We will do a detailed investigation of each area to develop our understanding of the specific eco systems and how any effects can be avoided, minimised and/or mitigated. If we do affect these systems, then we will mitigate those effects and how we do this will be confirmed during the second stage of consenting. Examples of mitigation include planting that could include indigenous forest, wetland restoration and riparian planting to enhance the existing features of the area.

The NZ Transport Agency is interested in your knowledge of the area, so as part of your feedback please make comment on areas you believe have environmental and cultural importance.



Sediment retention ponds and treatment devices such as this one are used to reduce sedimentation effects from live earthworks areas and help protect our waterways

During construction we will need to work in and around water courses and in these instances we will need to think about how we can minimise or prevent effects on the ecology.

For example, we may need to temporarily relocate fish. The people involved in these activities are specialists and local iwi. In some instances as part of our work we may need to construct stream diversions. These would need to be designed to replicate existing stream beds or where appropriate rehabilitate/enhance remaining stream beds.



Contact us on **0800 740 560** or **manawatugorge@nzta.govt.nz** or visit **www.nzta.govt.nz/manawatu-gorge** to find out more.