

# Pōrangahau and Wimbledon Roads Project Update

March 2022

## From bridge strengthening to major roading upgrades, Central Hawke's Bay is making the most of the \$20.1 million awarded through the Kānoa Regional Economic Development & Investment Unit.

These improvements are key for our district – it's about providing transportation lifelines to Central Hawke's Bay and its communities, developing safe and durable infrastructure for future generations, and creating employment opportunities for local people.

We thought it was time to spotlight a few projects within the wider programme, and what we're doing to improve Pōrangahau and Wimbledon Roads – two vital routes in Central Hawke's Bay.

Pōrangahau Road saw significant rainfall last week which has temporarily halted the progress on this route. This week we will assess the full impact of this weather event, including a potential clean-up, before we continue with projects for this stretch of road.

### Slow Vehicle Bay on Pōrangahau Road



Last year we asked the community for feedback on a proposed vehicle bay for Pōrangahau Road. We had 7 different locations up for consideration, with a location 12kms south of Waipukurua coming back as the preferred option.

Through the Kānoa programme, we had a design created for this location, and construction began on-site in February 2022 with initial site clearance and road widening. Over the next few months, a 600m long slow vehicle bay will be created, allowing for drivers to safely pass heavy vehicles.

### Flaxmill & Wanstead Roothing Upgrade

This bridge is known to flood! In 2004 and 2018, the rainfall was so heavy electricity supply was cut and it compromised community safety. In 2018, the roads either side of the bridge were closed on more than 20 occasions.

A key thoroughfare in our district, we are focussed on future proofing this stretch of road.



Flaxmill & Wanstead

So, how are we tracking? Stage 1 just north of Flaxmill Bridge is complete, with the road lifted by 600mm. After widening the shoulder, we are now working on lifting the road at Stage 2 and 3 – both south of Hiranui - by 800mm. This will be followed by resealing and guardrail improvements. We are working to gain a consent to remove approximately 2km of silt and channel widening of the Tāurekaitai stream will take place – underneath Flaxmill Bridge and up and down stream. This will provide greater capacity and reduce the amount of water that overflows the stopbank upstream of Flaxmill Bridge.

Further engagement is needed with landowners, the community, and the local catchment group to target further improvements to the waterway, especially the Wanstead swamp/wetland.

### Safety Improvements

A team of roading specialists at Stantec assessed both Pōrangahau and Wimbledon roads and identified safety improvements along the routes. After meeting with the local community in November 2021, works began on the programme.

With vegetation works currently underway to improve road visibility, the work has already seen new signs raised, reflective markers fitted, edge breaks repaired, lines painted, and delineation installed on Wimbledon Road. Next, the team will move onto Pōrangahau Road, starting from the south moving north.

### Bridge and Culvert Strengthening

After a detailed assessment of our bridges and culverts, originally 8 out of 20 were identified as a risk of being able to handle High Productivity Motor Vehicle (HPMV), which is over 62 tonnes. Improving the resilience and safety of these structures for current and future traffic (including a projected increase in heavy vehicles) is a key part of the Kānoa programme.



Retaining Walls Lower Wimbledon Road

Here's a snapshot of a few structures and what we've been doing to bring them up to standard.

### Wallingford Bridge



A team made of entirely of local people employed by our contractor, Concrete Structures Ltd, worked to strengthen Wallingford Bridge from early 2021. Almost 4000 holes were drilled to install bolts that connected a new deck to the existing bridge! New concrete was poured, and the team finished off with chip sealing, new guardrails, resealing and road marking.

### Kokomoko Bridge



Work commenced in late 2021 to strengthen the existing bridge. Due to findings related to the condition of the existing structure, we were unable to complete the plans to strengthen the bridge. Currently traffic is being diverted to a safe, temporary bridge, while the team work to demolish and prepare the site to install a new offsite fabricated bridge. This structure is planned to be fully functional by May 2022.

Works are also underway at both Saleyards Bridge and Sixty Pound Bridge – they are currently being strengthened.

### Retaining Wall Programme

Five retaining walls have been built across Pōrangahau and Wimbledon Road, with a further three small retaining walls to be built by June 2022.

A large 'retreat' is underway on Wimbledon Road which pushes approximately 500m of road 7m into the neighbouring paddock. This is to alleviate risk of slope failure and further road degradation.

Three risk sites were identified along this stretch. During planning it was found to be better value to undertake a retreat than undertake individual projects. Essentially, the retreat means relocating the road away from a subsiding edge. Work will be underway through to June 2022.

## Pōrangahau and Wimbledon Road UPGRADE

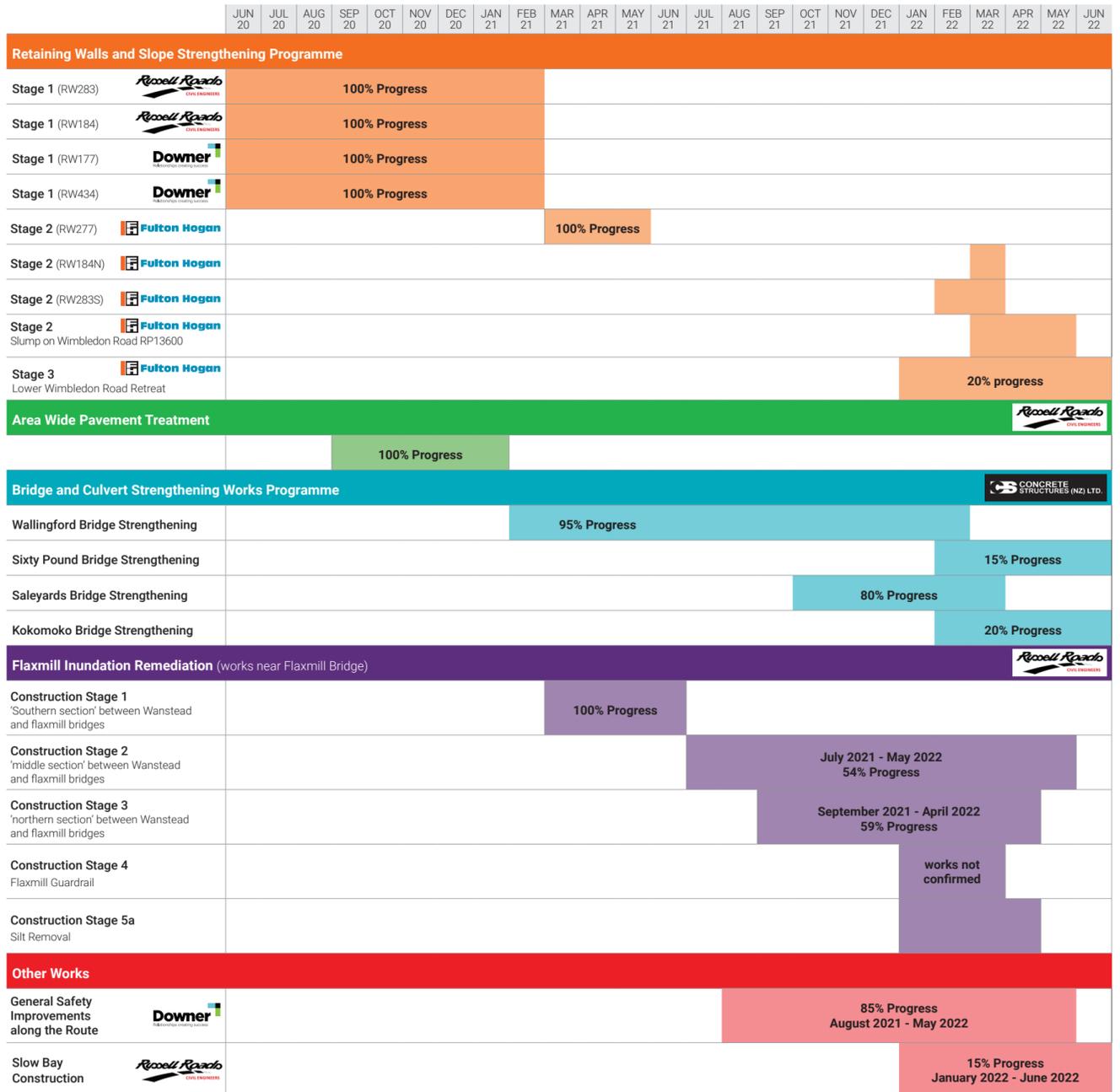
SUPPORTED BY



### Overall Programme Progress

(Expected Finish Date June 2022)

70%



Want to know more about what we're doing in this programme of work? Scan the QR code to visit our website for full information. Sign up to our quarterly e-newsletter while you're there – you'll receive all the latest updates straight to your inbox!