

# ARAPUNI DAM REMEDICATION WORK

December 2024 Newsletter.



Pōhara Marae hosted our project team for our second cultural induction hui in December. Photo: Leah Wyatt.

## NAU MAI, HAERE MAI. WELCOME.

This is our first newsletter to update the community on the work we're doing on the Arapuni Hydro Dam. We will aim to produce a newsletter every quarter to build awareness of the work we've done so far, and to share details of upcoming work.



Please forward this to anyone who might be interested. People can request to join our mailing list by sending a message to: [project.arapuni@mercury.co.nz](mailto:project.arapuni@mercury.co.nz)

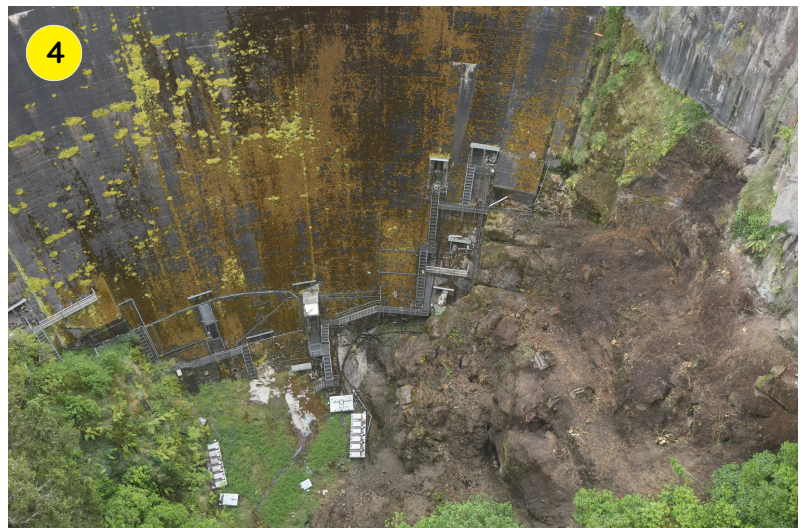


## PROJECT RECAP.

The Arapuni Hydro Dam is safe and fit for everyday use, but work needs to be done to improve the left abutment of the dam, to protect it from the risk of water seepage and internal erosion. Previous measures to manage seepage have worked well but now it's time to introduce some modern engineering options to reduce the risk of further seepage occurring and ensure the dam continues to be around for many more years.







1 & 2: Our first visit at Pōhara marae. Ngāti Korokī Kahukura kaumātua blessed the project site with a karakia.  
3 & 4: Before and after pictures of the vegetation clearance at the left abutment.  
5. Our team discovered two copper skinks during the vegetation clearance.  
6. Meeting the community at our first drop-in at Rhubarb Cafe.



## PROJECT UPDATE.

### SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER:

We met with South Waikato and Waipā district councils to outline the purpose and scope of the project. We also held a drop-in at Rhubarb Cafe for the community to meet the project team, hear about the work we have planned over the course of the project, and to ask questions.

Our team involved in the vegetation clearance work on the left abutment attended a cultural induction hui at Pōhara Marae. During this day, kaumātua led a karakia as we walked over the project site, to clear the way for our work to begin.

### OCTOBER-NOVEMBER:

We began removing vegetation from the left abutment of the dam. This allowed us to undertake detailed geological mapping of the abutment. The data will help us design the relief drainage and drilling work planned to start in early 2025. During the vegetation work, our team discovered two lizards.

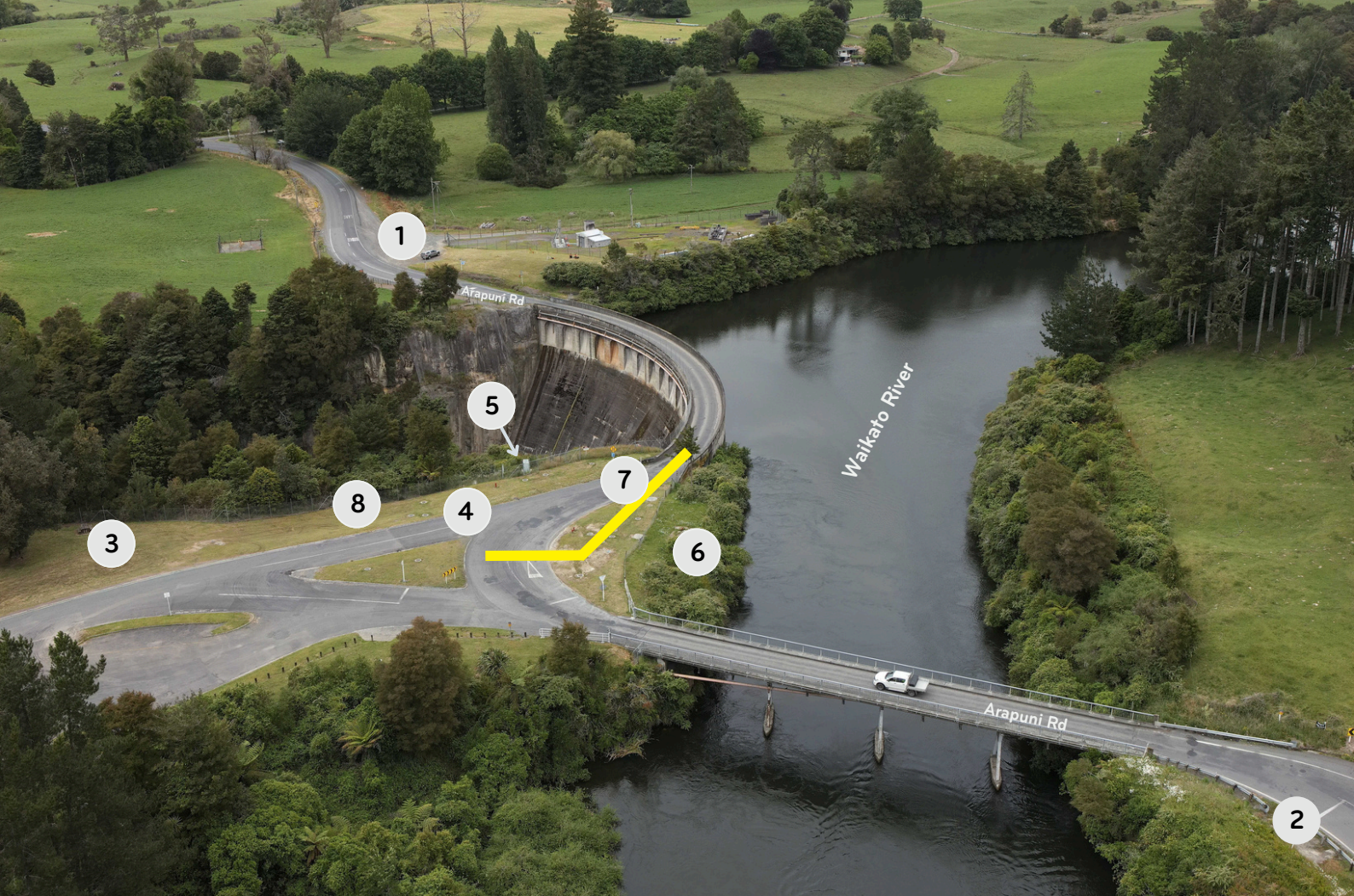
We followed the wildlife discovery protocol and reported the find to the project's ecologist. The lizards were likely to be copper skinks which live throughout the North Island from around Kaitaia to Wellington. Our team finished the vegetation clearance in early November ahead of schedule.

### DECEMBER:

We were hosted by Pōhara Marae for our second cultural induction, this time for the wider project team. This was a chance to learn more about our iwi partners, the stories attached to the whenua and awa around Arapuni.

After our morning at the marae, we had representatives of Ngāti Korokī Kahukura and Raukawa join us for our foundation workshop at Lake Karāpiro. We developed common goals to ensure we can work together well on the project, and work well with iwi and the community.





## KEY

**1 & 2:** Traffic control points.

**3:** Lay-down area and site office.

**4:** Drilling rig at crest of dam for relocating subsurface instruments.

**5:** Drilling rig at toe of dam for relief drainage.

**6:** Left abutment of the dam.

**7:** Proposed area for seepage cut-off treatment (yellow line).

**8:** Location for jet grouting trial.



## WHAT'S HAPPENING NEXT?

There will be lots of activity at the dam during the first three months of 2025. You will see heavy machinery and supporting equipment being put into place from mid-January.

- We will start work on relief drainage at the toe (bottom) of the dam.
- We will relocate instruments which measure subsurface activity at the top of the left abutment.
- There will be one drilling rig working at the toe of the dam for the relief drainage work.
- Another rig will be based at the crest of the dam to remove and relocate the subsurface instruments.

- We will trial jet grouting as a ground improvement technique used to stabilise or strengthen soil. The trial will inform the design approach for the main works.
- There will be traffic management in place on weekdays during the work, but minimal disruption to traffic flow, people will still enjoy using the walking tracks nearby.

We enjoyed meeting the community at our drop-in in October, but we know not everyone was able to visit. We are planning to hold another drop-in for March-April 2025 to provide an update on the work. Keep an eye on our project page for more details.



## EARLY WORKS TIMELINE

### MID-JANUARY TO AUGUST 2025



Relief drainage drilling starts at the toe of the dam.



Drilling starts at crest of dam to relocate subsurface instruments, monitor left abutment, and investigation drilling.

### APRIL-JUNE 2025



Prepare site and start jet grouting trial.



Trial anticipated to take 2-3 weeks and further 2-3 weeks to test and validate trial results.

### ONGOING



Engagement with stakeholders and the community.



Input and collaboration with iwi partners.



Preparation for resource consent for main works.

#### HOW CAN I TALK TO THE PROJECT TEAM?

As we start to develop plans for the remediation work, we will continue to engage with stakeholders and local community to let people know what is planned. If you would like to contact the project team, or provide feedback, please email: [project.arapuni@mercury.co.nz](mailto:project.arapuni@mercury.co.nz). Scan the QR code or follow the link below to view our project webpage: [www.mercury.co.nz/arapuni-dam-remediation-work](http://www.mercury.co.nz/arapuni-dam-remediation-work)

