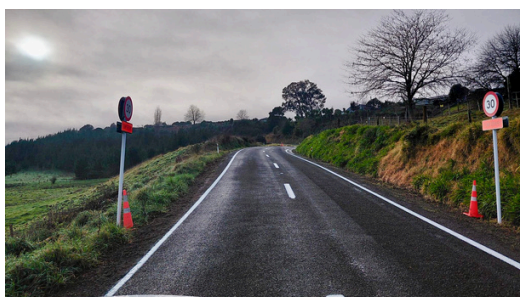
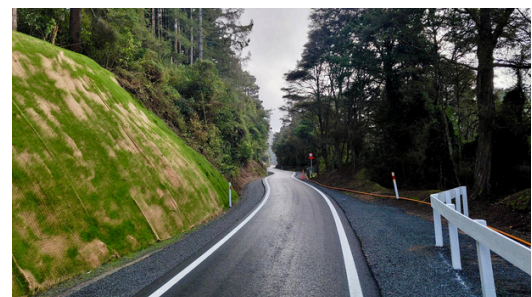


ARAPUNI DAM ENHANCEMENT WORK

September 2026 Newsletter



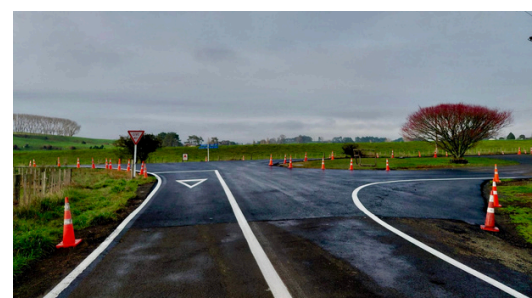
POWERHOUSE RD DETOUR IMPROVEMENTS



TOP LEFT: Two-lane section of the detour; TOP MIDDLE: Approaching the heavy vehicle turn-around bay; TOP RIGHT: The narrow, single-lane section of the detour.

ABOVE: Approaching the tailrace bridge; MIDDLE: Over the tailrace bridge and back into two-lane section of the detour; Waikato River Trail realigned for safety.

RIGHT: Where the detour meets Arapuni Road; a mini roundabout and heavy vehicle turnaround bay has been established here.



NAU MAI, HOKI MAI HELLO AND WELCOME BACK

This is our sixth newsletter to update the community on our work at the Arapuni Hydro Dam in South Waikato. We plan to close the road across the dam on Tuesday, 1 September 2026, to allow construction work on the dam's left abutment to begin. Our newsletter will focus on what you need to know before the closure.



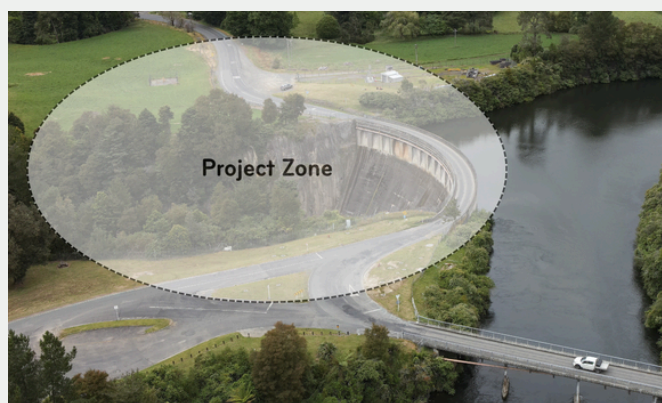
People can request to join our mailing list by emailing: project.arapuni@mercury.co.nz

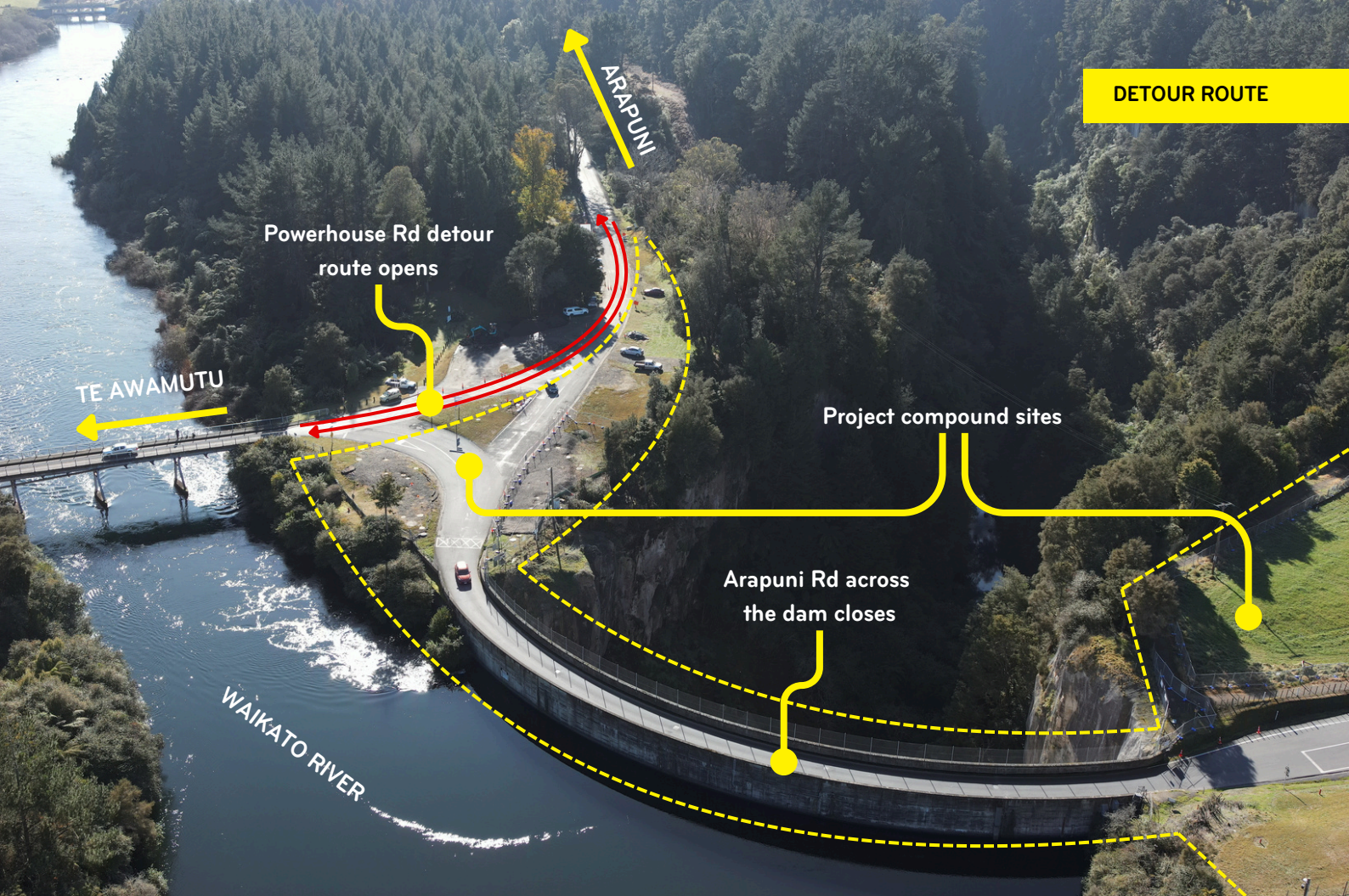


PROJECT RECAP

The Arapuni Hydro Dam is safe for everyday use but work needs to be done to improve the left abutment (pictured below), to protect it from the risk of water seepage and internal erosion.

We started early works in 2024 and we are introducing modern engineering options to reduce the risk of further seepage occurring. This winter we have been resetting the project site for the main works programme.





ROAD ACROSS THE DAM CLOSES 1 SEPTEMBER 2026

This closure is required so construction equipment can be safely installed and operated on the dam. Once closed, vehicles will need to use the temporary detour route via Powerhouse Road or travel via the state highway network.



USING THE DETOUR SAFELY

Speed limits and traffic controls

A temporary speed limit of 30 km/h will apply throughout the detour route.

Please follow all posted speed limits, traffic lights and signage, including any speed reductions approaching the detour, to help keep everyone safe.

Powerhouse Road includes:

- Single-lane sections
- Traffic light-controlled areas
- Increased vehicle movements
- Construction-related traffic

Please:

- Obey all posted speed limits
- Follow traffic signals
- Drive to the conditions
- Allow extra travel time
- Be patient and courteous to other road users

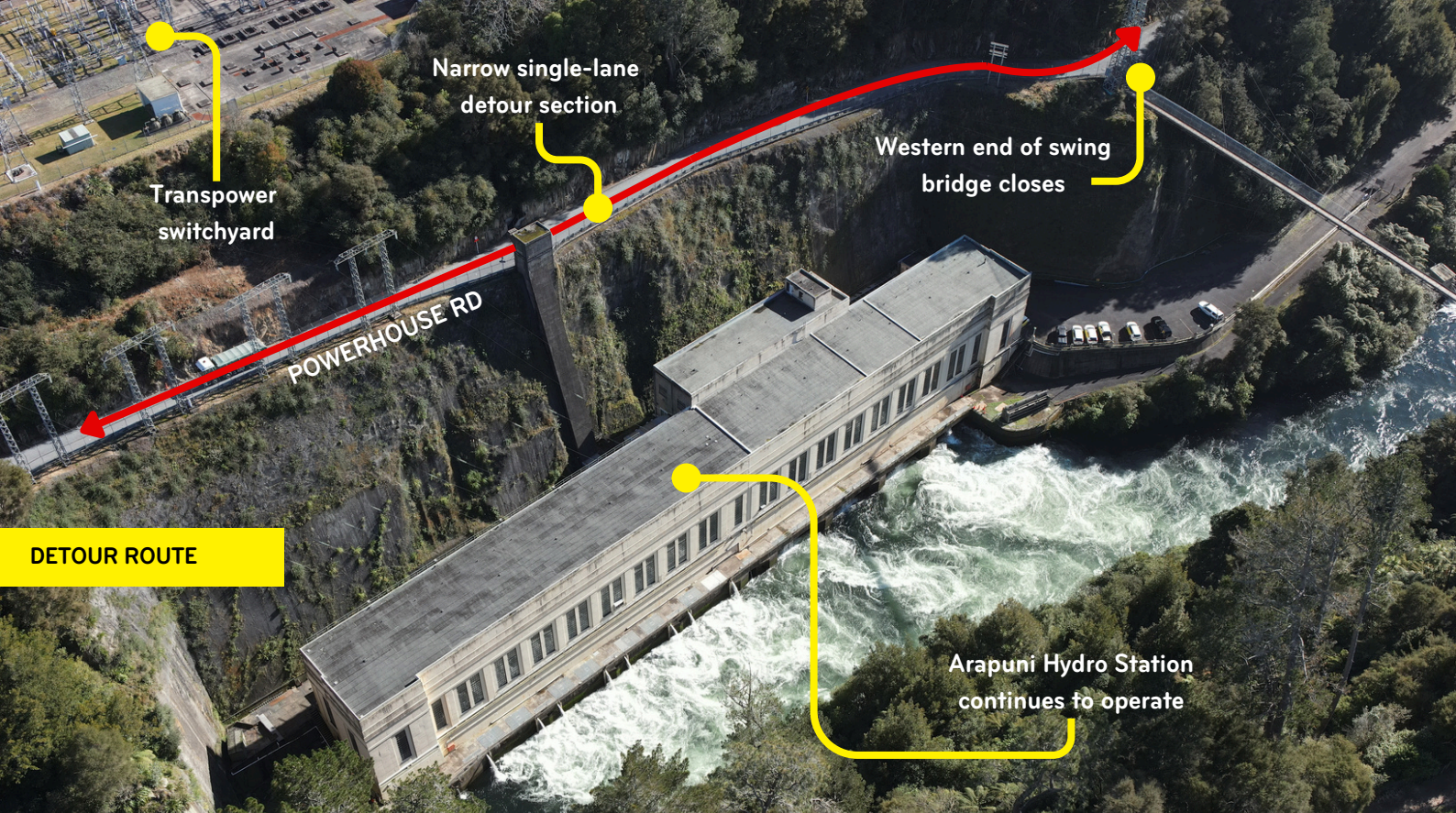
We encourage all road users to plan their journeys ahead of time. Using the detour may add about 10 minutes to your journey, and additional delays may occur due to other works on the wider state highway network.

Before travelling, you can use tools such as the [NZTA Journey Planner](#) for the latest travel information, road conditions and delays to help plan the best route for your journey.

Walking, cycling and trail access

- The road across the dam will not be available to pedestrians or cyclists once construction begins.
- The western end of the swing bridge connecting to Powerhouse Road will also be closed for safety.
- The Waikato River Trail will remain open on the Arapuni village side.
- Please follow all signage and directions around closed areas.

For the latest updates on trail access and visitor information, please visit the Waikato River Trails website: www.waikatorivertrails.co.nz.



WHO CAN USE THE DETOUR?

The temporary Powerhouse Road detour is intended for local essential travel. This includes:

- Travel to and from work
- School journeys
- Accessing local services
- Emergency response activities

Vehicles permitted

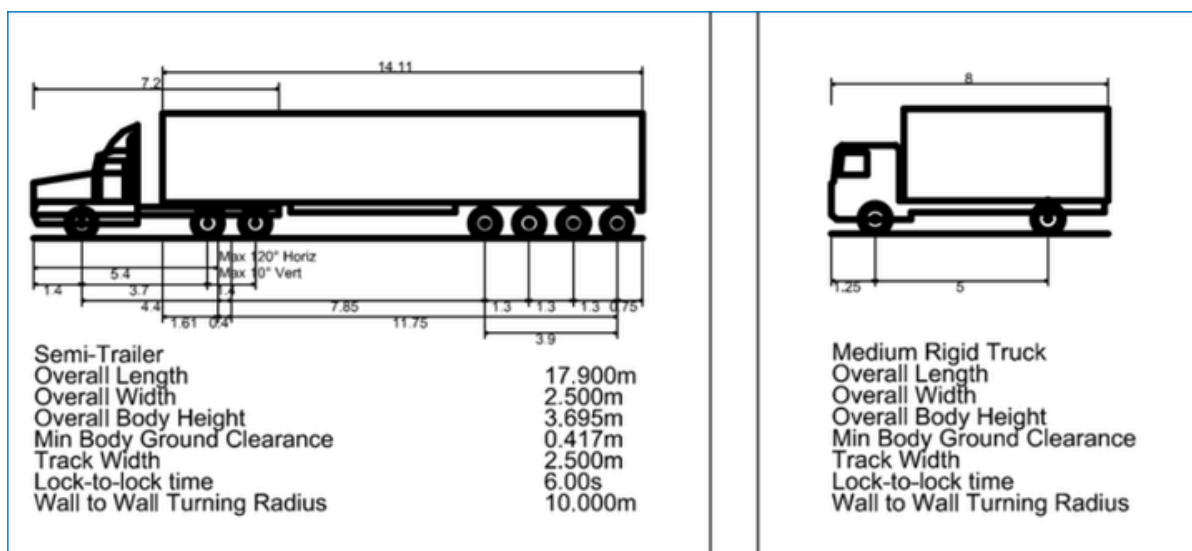
- Cars
- Light commercial vehicles
- Motorcycles
- School buses
- Emergency service vehicles
- Rigid trucks up to 8 metres long (see below)

Vehicles not permitted

- High Productivity Motor Vehicles (HPMVs)
- Oversized vehicles
- Extended freight vehicles
- Heavy vehicle combinations exceeding the route limits

Engineering assessments have confirmed Powerhouse Road cannot safely accommodate larger heavy vehicles due to its narrow road width, tight corners, steep gradients and single-lane traffic-controlled sections.

All heavy freight traffic should continue using the State Highway 1 – State Highway 21 – State Highway 3 route.



If you are unsure whether your vehicle can use the detour, please contact the project team: project.arapuni@mercury.co.nz.



PROJECT SITE SET UP

As construction begins, the community will notice increased activity around the dam.

Temporary project compounds have been established on both sides of the dam to support the main works programme.

Over the coming weeks, equipment, materials and specialist construction crews will be mobilised to site.

Please take extra care around work areas and follow all temporary traffic management and safety signage.

Stay informed

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we prepare for this important stage of the project.

As construction progresses, we will continue to keep the community informed through newsletters, project updates and future community drop-in sessions.

For the latest project information, visit:
www.mercury.co.nz/arapuni-dam-remediation-work

Or contact the project team at:
project.arapuni@mercury.co.nz

Help us keep our people safe

There have been several incidents where stones have been thrown from the top of the dam into the area below.

This behaviour poses a serious safety risk to workers and contractors carrying out construction activities.

As work ramps up, more people will be working below and around the dam.

We ask everyone to:

- Keep clear of restricted areas
- Respect construction fences and barriers
- Never throw stones or other objects from the dam or surrounding structures
- Report any unsafe behaviour

Thank you for helping us keep everyone safe.

PLAN YOUR JOURNEY

We are making significant enhancements to the Arapuni Hydro Dam. For safety, we will need to close Arapuni Road across the dam from 1 September 2026 for 24-36 months. A temporary diversion route along Powerhouse Road will be for local, essential travel only. All trucks to use alternative route via Tamahere.

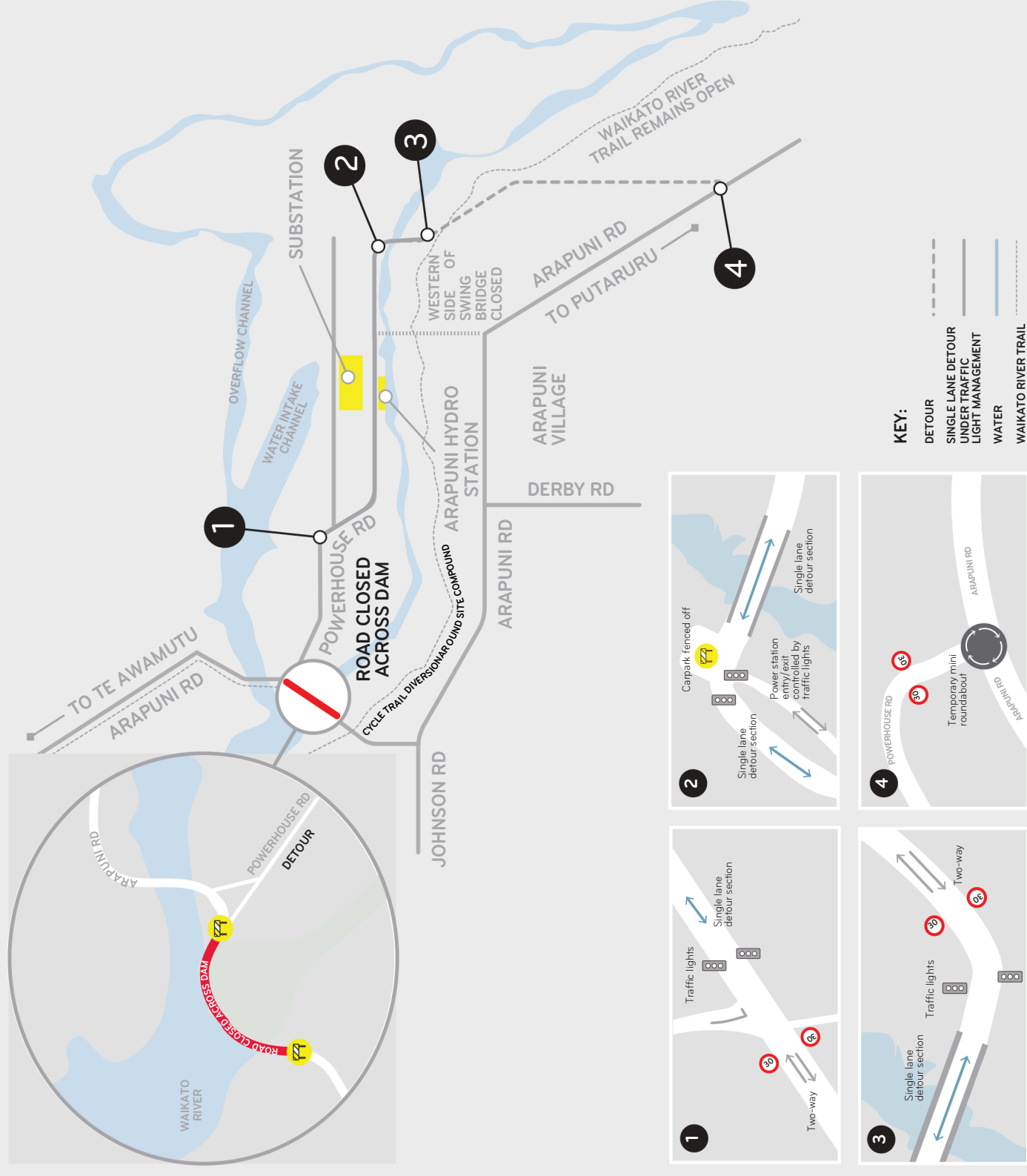


Scan or click
for up-to-date
NZTA travel info.



Scan or click
to find out more
about this project.

Visit our website at:
mercury.co.nz/arapuni-dam-remediation-work
or email us on:
project.arapuni@mercury.co.nz



PLAN YOUR JOURNEY

We are making significant enhancements to the Arapuni Hydro Dam. For safety, we will need to close Arapuni Road across the dam from 1 September 2026 for 24-36 months. Freight/heavy commercial vehicles and long-distance travel should use the SH1-SH21-SH3 route. Provides reliable travel for HPMVs and larger vehicles.

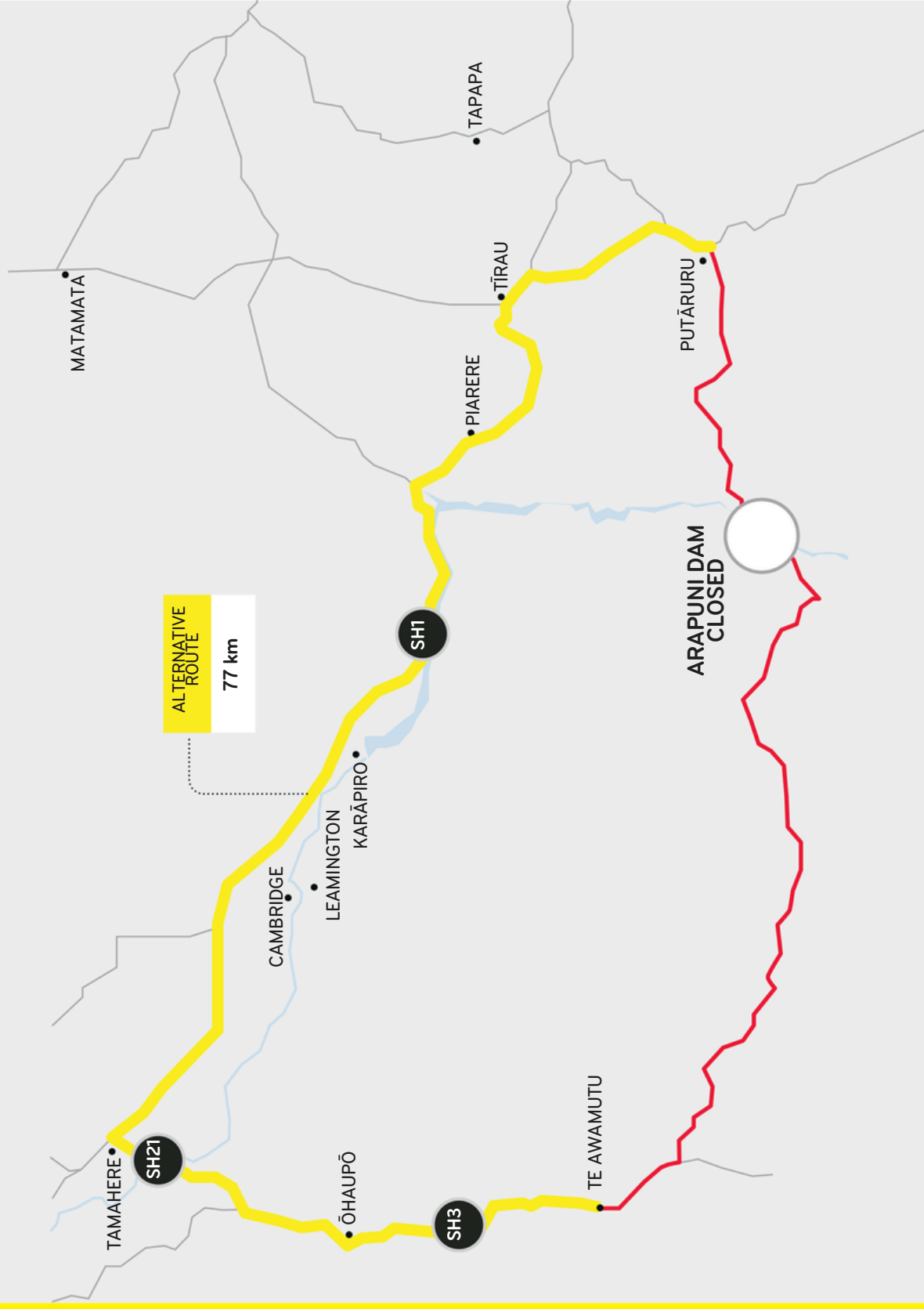


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about this project.

Visit our website at:
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project.arapuni@mercury.co.nz



Alternative state
All trucks to use this route. Using the alternative route will add 10-15 minutes of travel time between Te Awamutu and Putāruru. Temporary detour on Powerhouse Road for essential local travel only.

Alternative state
highway route
Arapuni Dam closed



TIMELINE

PHASE 2 ENABLING WORKS.

AUGUST

- Relief drainage at bottom of the dam concludes.
- Upgrades to Powerhouse Road conclude; this will be used as detour route during main works.

SEPTEMBER

- Main works start; project site set up on the left abutment of the dam.
- Anticipate dam road closure and temporary detour in place for 24-36 months.

OCTOBER

- Continue to raise awareness of the project, the road closure and the detour routes.

NOVEMBER ONWARDS

- Keep community and stakeholders informed of project progress.

PHASE 3 CONSTRUCTION.

HOW CAN I TALK TO THE PROJECT TEAM?

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, please email:

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-enhancement-project

