

ARAPUNI DAM REMEDICATION WORK

April 2025 Newsletter.



Ngaati Koroki Kahukura from Pohara Marae and Maungatautari Marae, with the project team, marking the start of drilling work on the left abutment at the Arapuni Hydro Dam in January 2025.

**KIA ORA ANO,
NAU MAI, HOKI MAI.
WELCOME BACK.**

This is our second newsletter to update the community on the work we're doing on the Arapuni Hydro Dam. We've made a lot of progress and we want to share what's coming up through 2025.



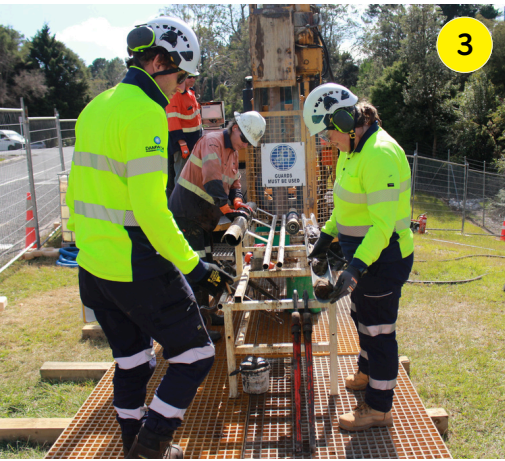
Please forward this to anyone who might be interested. People can request to join our mailing list by sending a message to: project.arapuni@mercury.co.nz

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 enabling works in late 2024 and resumed in early 2025 so we can begin planning modern engineering options to reduce the risk of further seepage occurring. We expect to begin the main works programme, a 18-26 month project, in early 2026.





- 1: Our team on site following a cultural induction hui with Ngāti Koroki Kahukura.
- 2: Updating the community at our second drop-in event at Rhubarb Cafe.
- 3: Damwatch's Harry Atkinson and Josie Speed inspect core samples with Alton Drilling staff.
- 4: The drilling rig is used to relocate and install new subsurface sensors.
- 5: Principal Project Manager Tom Newson and Peter Haigh at the drop-in event.
- 6: Damwatch's Josie Speed records one of the core samples retrieved by the drilling rig from the left abutment.

PROJECT UPDATE

JANUARY:

A beautiful sunny morning set the stage for a meaningful karakia to mark the beginning of our engineering work at the dam on 21 January. We were honoured to have whānau from Pōhara Marae, Ngāti Koroki Kahukura, lead the ceremony over the left abutment of the dam, where most of the work will take place until September.

We set up one drilling rig on the left abutment to help relocate existing subsurface sensors and install new ones, so we can closely monitor any changes to the left abutment during the project. Big thanks to our project partners, Alton Drilling and Damwatch Engineering, for being part of this important work.

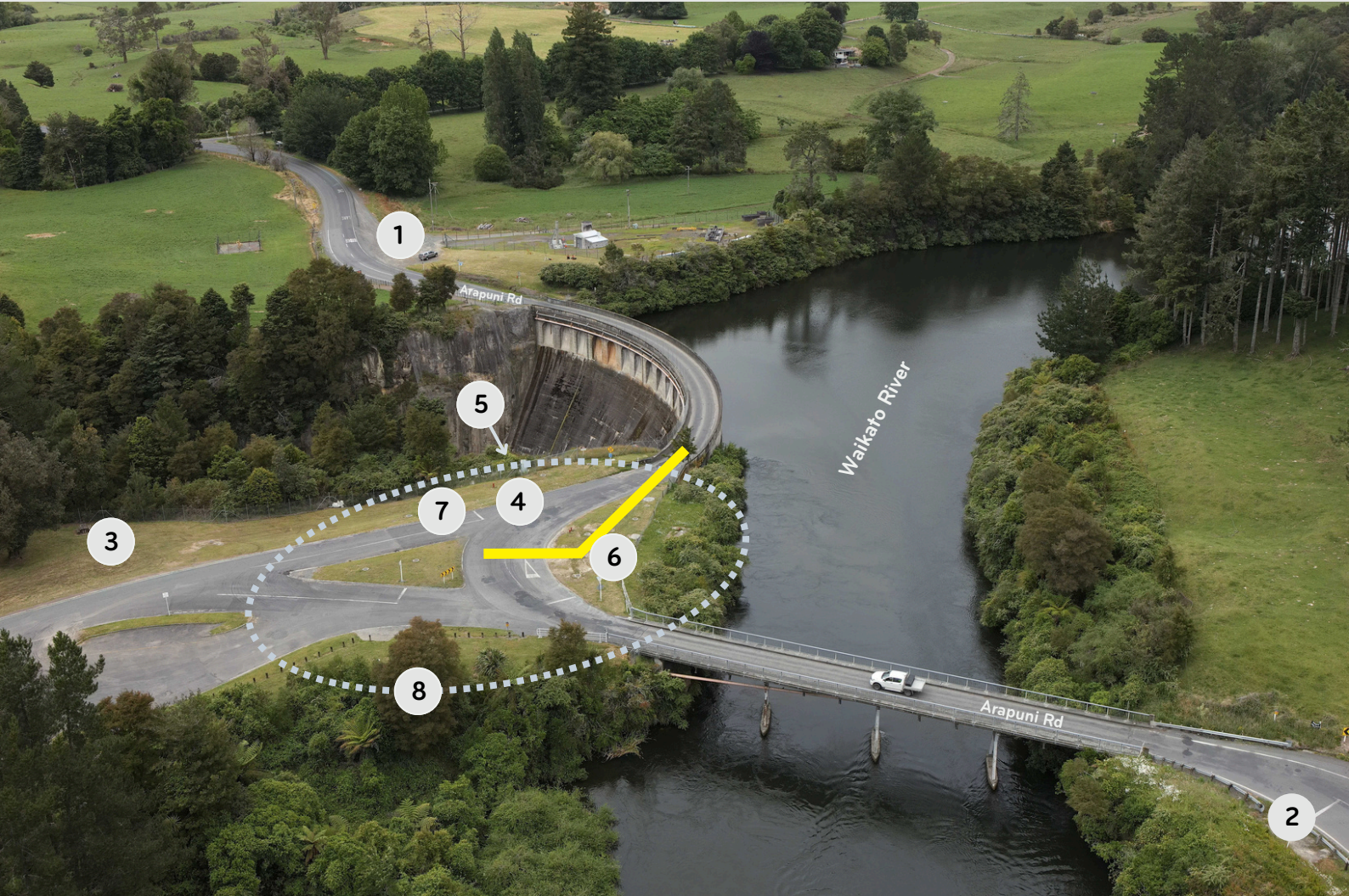
FEBRUARY-MARCH:

Our project team continued the drilling programme on the left abutment, in total we need to drill up to 14 holes and we are aiming to be completed by the end of winter 2025. During this work we have learnt more about the geology of the soil types

in the left abutment by carefully examining core samples brought to the surface by the drilling team. We have also found evidence of previous work to analyze and improve the subsurface soils, we think some could date back to the original construction of the dam in the early 1930s.

APRIL:

We held our second community drop-in event at Rhubarb Cafe to provide an update on the project and for people to meet the project team. The number one issue coming through is the closure of Arapuni Road across the dam and the use of Powerhouse Road as a temporary detour. We are doing a lot of work in the background to determine wait times for the detour and options for alternative routes. We will aim to report back to the community at our next drop-in in September.



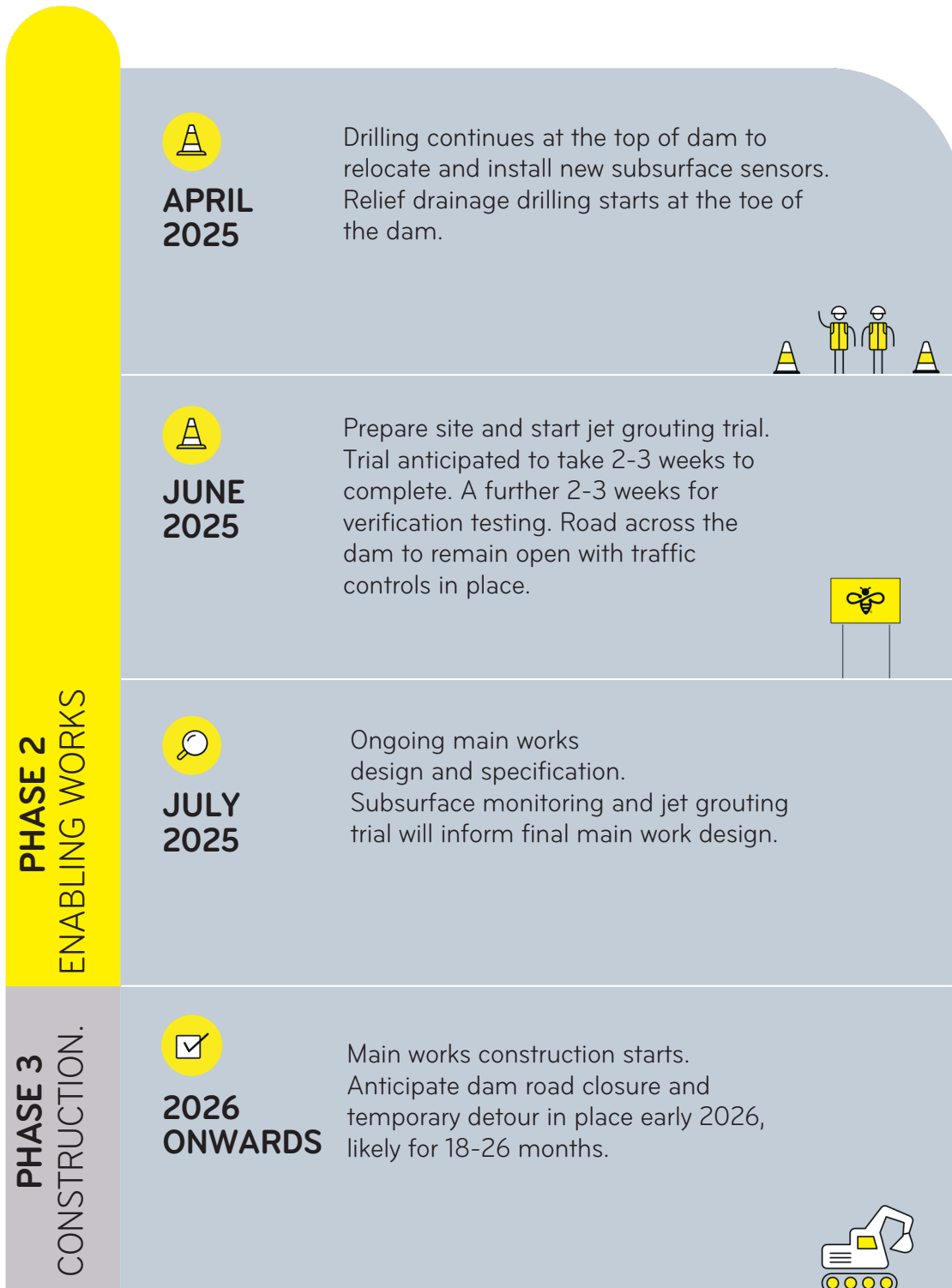
KEY

- 1 & 2:** Traffic control points.
- 3:** Storage area and site office.
- 4:** Drilling rig at crest of dam for relocating and installing new subsurface instruments.
- 5:** Drilling rig at toe of dam for relief drainage.
- 6:** Proposed area for seepage cut-off wall (yellow line).
- 7:** Location for jet grouting trial.
- 8:** The left abutment area (dotted circle).

WHAT'S HAPPENING NEXT?

- You will continue to see our drilling rig working at the crest of the dam through to the end of winter 2025. It is drilling up to 14 holes on either side of the road. Sometimes we need to put traffic controls in place to safely move the rig to a new location and to safely manage traffic through the project site.
- There will be more activity during April and May when we prepare to deploy another rig to the toe (bottom) of the dam to start work on relief drainage, this is a nine-month project.
- We are also preparing for our jet grouting trial on the left abutment, at the crest of the dam. Jet grouting is a soil improvement technique used to strengthen and stabilise the ground. It involves injecting high-pressure grout into the soil, which is then mixed with the surrounding earth to form a grout-cement soil column.
- The jet grouting will take up to three weeks and the results of the trial will help inform the design approach for the main programme of works in 2026.
- We will continue to have traffic controls in place on weekdays, when needed, during our work this year but there will be minimal disruption to traffic flow, people will still be able to enjoy using the walking tracks nearby.
- We are planning to hold our third drop-in event to update the community in September 2025. Keep an eye on our project page for more details.

EARLY WORKS TIMELINE



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. Scan the QR code or follow the link below to view our project webpage: www.mercury.co.nz/arapuni-dam-remediation-work

