

ARAPUNI DAM REMEDICATION WORK

July 2025 Newsletter.



Project team members, from left: Mike Francis, Tom Newson, Peter Amos, Marco Lucchi, Shaun Matthee, Jane Ganley and Giovanni Matassoni during a site visit to the toe of Arapuni Hydro Dam in early July.

KIA ORA KOUTOU, HELLO EVERYONE.

This is our third newsletter to update the community on our work at the Arapuni Hydro Dam. It's been almost a year since we kicked off our early works programme and there are some key activities planned in the coming months.



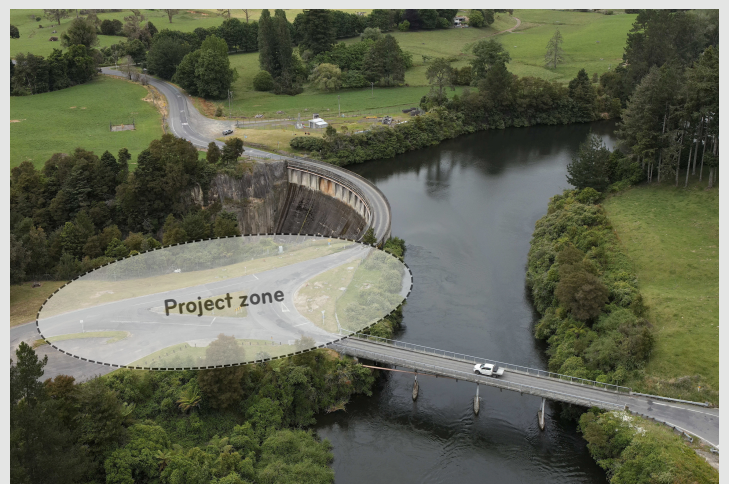
Please forward this to anyone who might be interested. People can request to join our mailing list by sending a message to: project.arapuni@mercury.co.nz



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 early works in 2024 and we are well into developing modern engineering options to reduce the risk of further seepage occurring. We expect to begin the main works programme, an 18-26 month project, in early 2026.





1



2

1 & 2:

A group from Ngāti Koroki Kahukura has been working to sort the core samples from our drilling work on the left abutment earlier this year. In picture 2, from left is: Maata Tai-Rakena, Kauri Tauroa-Shelford, our site manager Shaun Matthee and Ricky Winikerei.



3



4

3 & 4:

Roading and traffic experts from WSP, South Waikato District Council and Brian Perry Civil walked over Powerhouse Road to begin an assessment of its suitability as a detour road when we start the main works in 2026.



5



6

5 & 6:

Project team members from Trevi, Damwatch, Brian Perry Civil and Mercury made a site visit to the crest of the dam to bring everyone up to date on the jet grouting trial.



7



8

7 & 8:

The project team also made a site visit to the toe of the dam to inspect rock stabilisation and maintenance work on the left abutment.

PROJECT UPDATE

MAY:

We finished our drilling work to relocate and install new subsurface sensors into the left abutment of the dam. The core samples we retrieved helped us build a picture of what's happening underneath the surface.

We met with the South Waikato District Council to give elected members an update on the project. Traffic management across the dam remains a concern and we are developing a plan to use Powerhouse Road as a detour route.

We have been working with Ngāti Koroki Kahukura and the Waikato River Trails to improve safety where the cycle trail intersects with Powerhouse Road on the village side of the river.

The specialised jet grouting rig arrived in New Zealand from Hong Kong. It will be set up at the dam in July to start the jet grouting trial.

South Waikato District Council removed the toilets next to our project site, but people can still use the toilets on Arapuni Road closer to the Arapuni village.

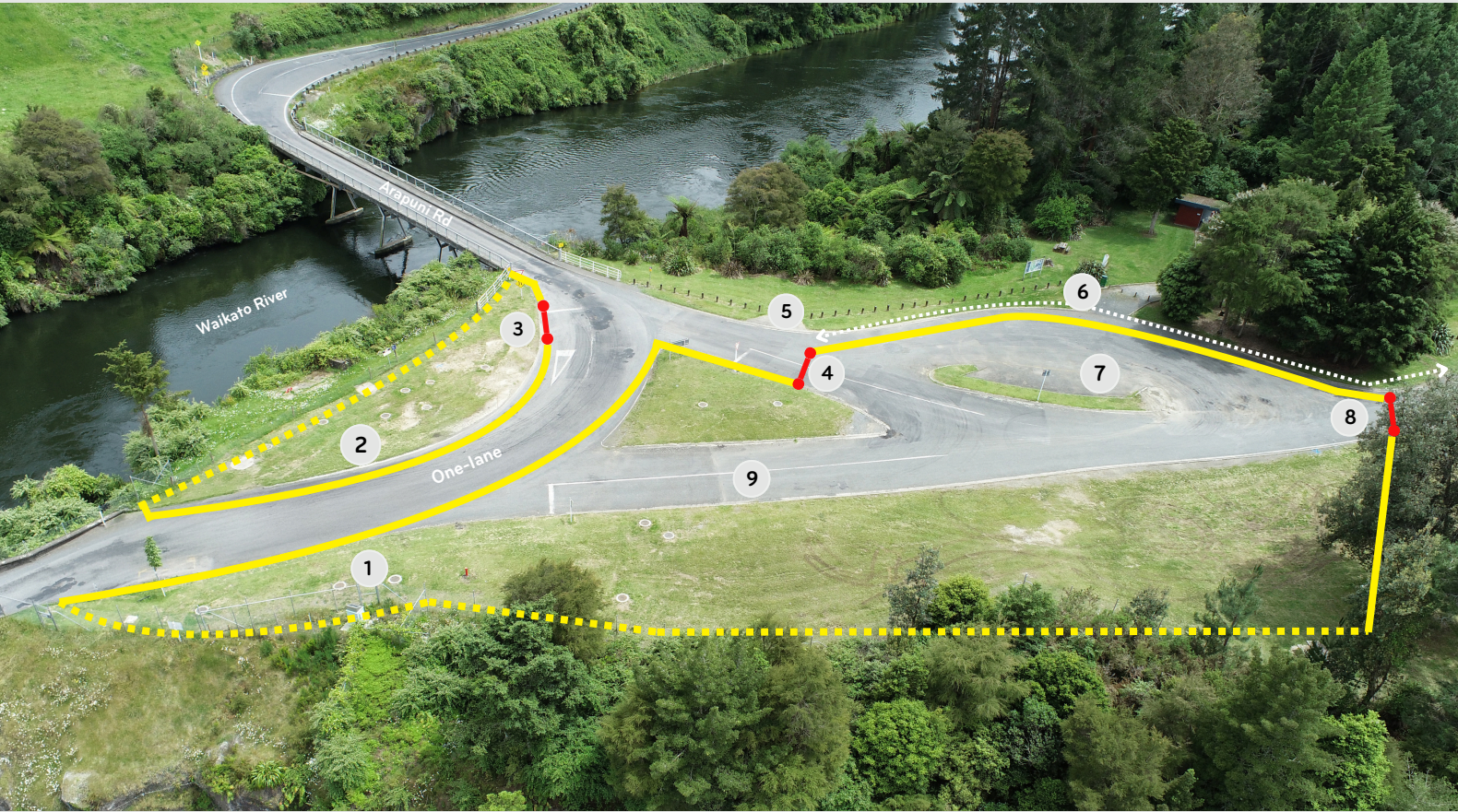
JUNE-JULY:

We appointed a site manager who is the central point of contact for daily operations.

We hosted road and traffic management specialists from South Waikato District Council, WSP and Brian Perry Civil to walk over the proposed detour route on Powerhouse Road. Their recommendations will help us prepare the road for use as the detour route when the main works start in 2026.

We have whānau from Ngāti Koroki Kahukura working on site to sort the core samples retrieved from our drilling work earlier in the year.

We met with Waipā District Council to give elected members an update on the project.



KEY

Project site changes during the jet grouting trial.

1 & 2: Jet grouting trial zones where our rig will operate. Traffic management will be in place when we need to move the rig across the road
3, 4 & 8: Project site entry only.

5: Limited public car parking.

6: Pedestrian bypass to walking tracks.

7: Project parking, office and support buildings.

9: Jet grouting production zone.

Traffic management will be in place while the trial is underway.



WHAT'S HAPPENING NEXT?

- We'll begin our jet grouting trial around mid-July. The work will take about three weeks, followed by a programme of verification tests over the following four to six weeks.
- The dam road will remain open during the trial with traffic management in place.
- This is an important piece of work to inform the design of the main works for the consolidation treatment within one area of the left abutment.
- During this time, people will see a specialised jet grouting rig on site. It is slightly larger than the one used earlier this year for investigation and instrumentation drilling of the new subsurface sensors.
- Design work for the main seepage cut-off will begin after the jet grouting trial. The trial is a key part of planning the design, construction sequence and methods for the main works which we plan to start in 2026.
- Ongoing rock slope stabilisation continues to make the dam toe drilling worksite safe.
- We'll then lower a second drill rig to the toe of the dam to begin relief drainage drilling, which will take five to six months.
- Once the engineering assessment for Powerhouse Road is complete, design work can begin to prepare the road as a detour route ahead of the main construction works starting in 2026.
- We will update the community and key stakeholders on our detour road plan.
- We're planning our third community drop-in event in Arapuni this September.

TIMELINE

PHASE 2 ENABLING WORKS.



**JULY
2025**

We start our jet grouting trial at the crest of the dam.



**AUGUST
2025**

Ongoing rock slope stabilisation works of left abutment and relief drainage drilling starts at the toe of the dam.



**SEPTEMBER
2025**

Ongoing main works design and specification. Subsurface monitoring and jet grouting trial will inform final main work design.

PHASE 3 CONSTRUCTION.



**2026
ONWARDS**

Main works construction starts. Anticipate dam road closure and temporary detour in place early 2026, likely for 18-26 months.



HOW CAN I TALK TO THE PROJECT TEAM?

As the project progresses, 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

