

# Newsletter

Auckland Manukau Eastern Transport Initiative. AMETI

## What's inside?

From the Project Director: page 2  
Guest column, Tira Compain: page 2  
Van Damme Lagoon improvements: page 3-5  
Pakuranga-Botany Busway update: page 6

NOVEMBER 2011

## Construction begins on AMETI Panmure

Auckland Transport has awarded the first major AMETI Panmure contract, for replacement of Mountain Road Bridge, to Downer New Zealand Ltd. The \$8.85 million contract involves realigning Mountain Road east to meet Jellicoe Road and replacing the rail bridge. Construction is underway now, and is expected to be completed in July next year.

Downer will demolish buildings along Ellerslie Panmure Highway, relocate services and construct a temporary Park and Ride as well as building the replacement Mountain Road Bridge.

Auckland Transport Major Projects Manager Rick Walden says the start of physical works on site marks a significant milestone for Auckland Transport and the Panmure community.

"The Mountain Road Bridge works are a critical component of the first phase of AMETI Panmure. Key elements of the project will be completed during Kiwirail's annual rail line closure this Christmas, to ensure the next stage of works can be constructed safely and with minimum disruption to the travelling public."

Downer New Zealand Project Manager, Nigel McCreight says: "Downer are delighted to be involved right from the beginning of this exciting project and look forward to starting work within the Panmure community."

Auckland Transport expects to award the contract for the remainder of AMETI Panmure Phase One works by the New Year.

Phase One includes the creation of an enhanced transport interchange at Panmure and a new road to take pressure off Panmure roundabout before a new intersection is built.

Auckland Transport's Greg Horne will be managing community engagement for the Mountain Road contract. Greg can be contacted on (09) 355 3553 or [greg.horne@aucklandtransport.govt.nz](mailto:greg.horne@aucklandtransport.govt.nz).

Find out more: (09) 355 3553  
or visit [www.aucklandtransport.govt.nz](http://www.aucklandtransport.govt.nz)



## Pakuranga-Botany Busway update

Since meeting with the community to gather feedback on options for the new Pakuranga to Botany Urban Busway in late 2010, Auckland Transport has been continuing to progress design work to a point where we can confirm the preferred alignment.

We had intended to finalise and communicate the preferred alignment by July this year. However, we have taken some extra time to ensure transport and land use plans are integrated and will work together to benefit the local communities.

Please see page 6 for more information.

## AMETI Panmure information day: Saturday, 10 December

On Saturday, 10 December at Panmure Bridge School hall, 76 Kings Road, Panmure from 10am to 1pm, Auckland Transport is holding a Public Open Day for the AMETI project. Come along to learn about our proposed works, ask questions and give your feedback on our plans for the Panmure Station upgrade, AMETI Link Road, Van Dammes Lagoon improvements, Lagoon Drive and Panmure Bridge.



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# From the Project Director



Peter King, AMETI Project Director

Welcome to the first edition of our new look AMETI project newsletter, which will now be published on a quarterly basis. Keeping the community informed is a key part of my role as Auckland Transport's AMETI Project Director, and I hope this newsletter, together with our website and open days, will help achieve this.

As I'm sure you are aware, AMETI is an essential project that needs to progress in order to deal with severe road congestion, which is holding back the huge potential for economic growth in Auckland's east. AMETI is being designed to provide people in the eastern suburbs with transport choices, through significant roading, public transport and walking/cycling improvements. Auckland Transport is highly committed to delivering these benefits to the community.

I am extremely pleased to tell you that construction is now under way on the first phase of AMETI Panmure, and updated plans for the Pakuranga–Botany Busway will be

completed in the New Year. I would like to assure you that we are making good progress.

I encourage you to join us on Saturday, 10 December for the next project open day, where you'll be able to see the work we've been doing and talk to members of the project team – I hope to see you there.

Sincerely

**Peter King**

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## Guest column: Tipa Compain

As Auckland Transport's Mana Whenua - Mataawaka liaison person, I am working alongside the project team to engage with iwi who have connections to the wider area affected by AMETI.



Tipa Compain, Mana Whenua liaison, Auckland Transport

This area is rich in Māori history, and this is reflected in the diversity of affected iwi we've been meeting with. Initial hui have been held with several iwi to date – Ngai Tai Ki Tamaki, Ngati Paoa, Ngati Whatua o Orakei, Ngati Te Ata, Ngati Whanaunga, Te Akitai and Ngati Tamaoho.

Auckland Transport is strongly committed to understanding the views of Māori and to involving iwi in the protection and recognition of sites and values related to the AMETI project areas. Through this engagement process, we will be able to enrich Auckland Transport's knowledge of Māori sites and values across the area and ensure these are recognised and protected as AMETI progresses.

While the engagement process will determine which areas hold significance for Māori, there are some places already well documented as areas of interest. These include Van Dammes Lagoon, Maungarei (Mt Wellington) and Kaiahiku (Panmure Basin.)

Panmure Basin is particularly rich in Māori history, being a volcanic crater formed long before nearby Mt Wellington. Mokoia is the name of the pa that was located near Panmure Basin in the 1800's. This was the home of the Ngati Hura people, a hapu (sub tribe) of Ngati Paoa. There was also a wharewaka (canoe house), where expert carvers worked on and maintained tribal waka, and Te Moko Ika A Hiku Waru, a taniwha (guardian spirit,) occupied the lagoon.

As Auckland Transport works with iwi to protect and recognise significant sites such as those mentioned above, we look forward to sharing the results with the wider community through this publication, our website and project open days.

# Van Dammes Lagoon improvements

**Some land within the Van Dammes Lagoon reserve will be needed for the AMETI Panmure project. In return for this land, Auckland Transport plans to improve the reserve environment.**

This would be done through pest control, native planting and other measures to protect wildlife, improve water quality in the lagoon and generally make the reserve a place that can be enjoyed by the community.

Auckland Transport sought feedback on Van Dammes Lagoon at a project open day earlier this year and has since had meetings with Maungakiekie-Tamaki Local Board and members of community groups to discuss our proposal.

Feedback from the community showed that people like the peace and quiet and the natural qualities of the reserve, but dislike the poor water quality and the amount of silt in the lagoon. Overall this tells us that while Van Dammes Lagoon is valued, there is also plenty of room to improve the area to provide the community with a safe and enjoyable reserve.

We've designed improvements to Van Dammes Lagoon in two stages - work to be done as part of AMETI Panmure Phase One and additional work to be completed when the new AMETI road is expanded to four lanes, after 2020.

The two stages can be seen in the pictures on the facing page.

## Did you know?

Van Dammes Lagoon was originally formed to provide water for the Ireland brothers' tannery in the mid-1800s. The lagoon was transformed into a reserve in the 1930s by Theodore Van Damm. Following Mr Van Damm's death, the reserve was purchased by a private company and used as a rubbish dump.

The local council bought the site in 1975 and returned it to a reserve. Van Damm's Lagoon is scheduled as a Significant Ecological Area by the Auckland City Council Operative District Plan: 1999.

## Keen to get involved?

Auckland Transport is keen to have on-going involvement from the community in improving Van Dammes Lagoon. If you'd like to be part of this exciting project, please register your interest via the 'Say It' link on Auckland Transport's website ([www.aucklandtransport.govt.nz](http://www.aucklandtransport.govt.nz)) or by calling Auckland Transport on 09 355 3553.

## Van Dammes Lagoon proposal

**The initial proposal (shown on facing page) includes:**

- weed removal
- pest control
- native tree plantings and planting programme
- relocated entry from Mt Wellington Highway to the new AMETI road, with improved signage
- property purchases
- construction of a new maintenance track to allow more regular sediment removal (doubles as a walking track)
- improved stormwater ponds and wetlands
- second entry at the southern end of the reserve
- second outlet at the southern end of the lagoon to reduce flooding.

**The post 2020 proposal (shown overleaf) includes:**

- a new boardwalk over the existing sewer pipe and track upgrades
- new cascading pools
- grading of banks to provide better native plant habitat and a buffer between paths and wildlife nesting areas
- enhanced planting programmes
- improvements to park furniture
- on-going pest control, weed removal and sediment removal.



*The community has said the area needs to be improved.*

# Van Damm's Lagoon - Initial Scheme (Two Lane)



# Van Damm's Lagoon - Future AMETI Scheme (Four Lane)



New maintenance access to pond at 1V:8H grade. Path to be treated as informal walking track that can accommodate occasional maintenance vehicles.

New parking bays and entrance to Van Damm's Lagoon

New shade trees

New water pools located on slope to allow water to cascade down from new stormwater pipe

New boulevard trees

Thin existing Swamp Cypress trees and gradually replace with native Kahikatea, Pukatea and Swamp Maire trees. Remove weed and unwanted species throughout reserve and replace with new native planting appropriate to the habitat and locality

Banks to path planted in native regeneration species that will visually and physically link with existing vegetation and screen reserve from railway

New bench on pond edge located at permanent water level created for new native wetland planting and safety for pedestrians

Second outlet to be constructed to reduce flooding potential

New seat and lookout landing created to view length of pond

Existing wetland habitat to be retained and enhanced with new native wetland planting

New boardwalk attached to existing sewer pipe. Walking paths widened, surfaces improved and new path located to create through routes. This will serve to make the reserve more accessible, open water areas to views and increase public usage, improving public safety

# Pakuranga-Botany Busway update

Since meeting with the community to gather feedback on options for the new Pakuranga to Botany Urban Busway in late 2010, Auckland Transport has been continuing to progress design work to a point where we can confirm the preferred alignment. We will have plans ready to share with the community early in 2012.

Auckland Transport had intended to finalise and communicate the preferred alignment by July this year. However, we have taken some extra time to ensure transport and land use plans are integrated and will work together to benefit the local communities.

A team of urban designers, town planners and transport experts are currently working together to identify how AMETI can contribute to the long term aspirations for Pakuranga Town Centre. This work will ensure AMETI is not just about giving people in the eastern suburbs transport choices, but also about unlocking huge economic growth potential to create more jobs in the area.

Auckland Transport will have the design for a preferred busway alignment ready to share with the community early in 2012. Communication with the owners and tenants of any directly impacted properties will take priority.

## What happens when a property is required?

**We understand that there is still a lot of uncertainty about which properties will be needed for Auckland Transport to progress the AMETI project, and will be communicating with property owners and residents as soon as possible.**

We're committed to getting our plans right, so when we do contact you about your property, we can give you certainty. We also want you to know that if we do need to purchase your property, you will be fairly compensated – this is a legal requirement.

The process for calculating compensation is set down in the Public Works Act 1981 and Auckland Council has a legal obligation to provide fair, market-based compensation for land it needs to acquire for public works.

We've covered some frequently asked questions about property purchase below, but more detailed information is available on our website or in hard copy by calling (09) 355 3553 (<http://www.aucklandtransport.govt.nz/about-us/publications/ManualsandGuidelines/Documents/AT-land-purchase-and-compensation-guide.pdf>)

### Can the council take land compulsorily?

Yes, the Public Works Act 1981 enables council to proceed to compulsory acquisition, but only after the council has made every effort to negotiate with the owner for the sale and purchase of the land, but not managed to reach an agreement.

### Will the council buy the whole property when only part is affected by the proposed public work?

If only part of a property is needed for a public work, the council will consider buying the whole property if the value of the rest of the land is significantly affected, or if the landowner would have difficulty in getting access to the land or using it.

### What expenses can be claimed?

Property owners can claim the cost of selling their property to the council and purchasing a replacement property in the same area – costs may include legal advice, valuations and other professional fees. It is recommended that the landowners get approval of the council's property officer before incurring any expense, to ensure they are able to be reimbursed.

### When is compensation paid?

The terms of payment are as specified in the agreement between the landowner and the council. Generally, payment is made when vacant possession is given.



## Keep informed and Have Your Say

Project information: [www.aucklandtransport.govt.nz/ameti](http://www.aucklandtransport.govt.nz/ameti)

To provide feedback: click on the "Say It" link on our website: [www.aucklandtransport.govt.nz](http://www.aucklandtransport.govt.nz) or call us on 09 355 3553