

# Pyes Pa bypass section sees early completion

ONE major phase of the construction of a road bypassing the residential section of Pyes Pa Rd has been finished eight months ahead of schedule.

Major earthworks for the Pyes Pa Bypass have been completed thanks to a partnership between developers, local government and the NZ Transport Agency.

Once completed the 4.5km bypass will significantly reduce the amount of traffic using Pyes Pa Rd

between the Barkes Corner Roundabout and Tauranga crematorium.

The bypass begins at the Takitimu Dr toll road intersection with State Highway 29 and ends near the Crematorium on Pyes Pa Rd.

The first 400 metres of the bypass from State Highway 29 is already in use and was constructed by Grasshopper Farms under an agreement reached as part of The Lakes subdivision.

The four way agreement was between NZTA (formerly Transit) and Tauranga City Council, Western Bay of Plenty District Council and Grasshopper Farms.

The earthworks for the remaining 4.1km, which is now completed, were also carried out by Grasshopper Farms. The earthworks have been completed eight months before the contract's end date.

NZTA Regional Director Harry Wilson says between \$3.5 million was saved by negotiating with the adjacent developer to do the earthworks.

"This work included detailed design and the construction of the

embankments on soft soils along the bypass route to allow for settlement before road construction work is started.

"The embankments need to settle for about two years as there are very poor swampy soils to be dealt with."

Tauranga City Mayor Stuart Crosby says the successful collaboration of the four partners involved in the project would result in an important piece of infrastructure for the district.

"This is a great example of a private-public partnership working well to create a valuable asset for the community," he says.

The earthworks began late in 2007.

Tenders will be called in September for the road construction for the remaining 4.1km, which will include kerb and channelling, road pavement and signage.

According to NZTA acting Bay of Plenty State Highway manager Andrew Scott, a further "two summer's worth" of earthworks is required before the road will be open to traffic. The anticipated opening date is some time between May and July 2011.



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TAURANGA Mayor Stuart Crosby (left) talks to NZTA acting Bay of Plenty State Highway manager Andrew Scott about the new Pyes Pa bypass.

Running to the west of The Lakes subdivision, a walkway and cycleway will be constructed alongside the new road and there will also be a noise wall built between the road and the subdivision.

Tenders are expected to be called for in September with "two summer's worth of work required before the road can be opened to traffic. The predicted date for that to happen is some time between May and June 2011.

## The Lakes: Facts

- When completed there will be over 2000 sections in the subdivision.
- Of the 250 ha site, 100ha will be retained as reserve.
- The first stage of the development — 370 sections — is almost sold out.
- The second stage comprising 380 sections is on the market. The third and final stage will comprise around 1300 sections.
- 200,000 plants have been planted in since Christmas.