



1 Te Whitinga, photo courtesy of Well Connected Alliance. 2 Playground Opening, photo courtesy of Gary Tolley. 3 Tunnel Panel, photo courtesy of Well Connected Alliance.

## WATERVIEW CONNECTION PROJECT, AUCKLAND

Beca for NZ Transport Agency

Project Location: Auckland



The NZ Transport Agency's Waterview Connection Project was delivered by the Well-Connected Alliance (comprising the NZ Transport Agency, Fletcher Construction, McConnell Dowell, Obayashi Corporation, Beca, WSP and Tonkin + Taylor) and joined two State Highways 16 and 20 through 2.4km twin tunnels, associated motorway and ramps to complete the Western Ring Route and increase the capacity of Auckland's motorway network.

It was the culmination of many years of planning and preparation, and once detailed design commenced in late 2011, resentment and distrust amongst the communities impacted by the construction had reached new levels.

When a proposal to relocate one of the ventilation stacks was met with fierce stakeholder resistance, the design team took the bold decision to collaborate more openly with stakeholders in the design. This had never been done to this extent before and was not without challenges yet equally rewarding.

We established a Community Design Group to facilitate community input into specific design elements and Special Interest Groups were formed for the playground, skate parks and BMX track and Oakley Inlet Heritage area, which benefited from specialist users. Auckland Council and Mana Whenua were also part of the wider collaborative team.

Working together we achieved community-driven design outcomes which truly reflected the requirements of the stakeholders and demonstrated our commitment to working with, not against them. Over time we earned back the trust and confidence of the communities, with the result being extreme pride and ownership felt in the community and was testament to the passion and enthusiasm of all involved – client, consultants and stakeholders alike.

### Judging & Copyright Statement

This project is an entrant in the 2018 INNOVATE NZ Awards of Excellence competition. The winners will be celebrated at our Awards Gala Dinner on Friday, 3rd August 2018 in Hamilton.

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