

New Zealand

Name: New Zealand Tunnelling Society
Type of Structure: Incorporated non-profit
Number of Members: 130 individuals and Corporate Sponsors Two Platinum Three Gold and Two Silver Corporate Sponsors



ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES DURING 2020 AND TO DATE

Due to COVID disruption the NZTS held only two technical presentations including a year-end wrap-up of tunnelling activities in the year with a bi-monthly programme of technical presentations from industry across 2021.

The rollout of worker competency training

development programme sponsored by the major tunnelling projects and supported by industry, NZTS and the regulator Worksafe has commenced.

The NZTS is supporting the regional tunnelling conference to be held in Melbourne by having a virtual HUB in Auckland on the 11th and 12th of May 2021.

CURRENT TUNNELLING ACTIVITIES

In Auckland the two major tunnelling projects, the City Rail Link (metro) <https://www.cityrailink.co.nz/> and the Central Interceptor Project (wastewater) <https://www.watercare.co.nz/About-us/Central-interceptor> are well underway with TBM's being prepared for launch at the time of writing. These two flagship projects continue the growth in the New Zealand tunnelling industry and the focus is now on what will follow.

In Southland work is underway on the Homer Tunnel upgrade aimed in part at resolving safety issues highlighted when a car caught fire inside the tunnel in 2020. Southland's iconic 1.2km-long Homer Tunnel is undergoing a \$25M safety upgrade which is expected to take several years to complete. The first work to get under way is \$3M worth of safety improvements, recommended after an investigation into a car fire in the tunnel recommended it in January 2020.

FUTURE TUNNELLING ACTIVITIES

Auckland Light Rail

In July 2020, the New Zealand Cabinet terminated the process of procuring a delivery partner for the light rail despite receiving two 'credible' offers from proponents, the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) and a consortium (NZ Infra) of the New Zealand Super Fund and the Canadian pension fund CDPQ Infrastructure. The NZ Govt has set up an establishment unit to consider the next steps. <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/next-steps-auckland-light-rail-0>

Auckland Additional Waitemata Harbour Crossing

Planning is underway to develop a rail-based rapid transit connection for the North Shore (including across the Waitematā Harbour to the city centre), that supplements and integrates with the upgraded Northern Busway and the wider public transport network to provide more public transport travel options. Construction is not anticipated to start until at least the 2030s.

Auckland Council has allocated about 10% of a \$500M 6-year work programme to tunnelling and HDD works as part of ongoing investment in improvements in water quality in Auckland.

Wellington The bi-directional Mt Victoria tunnel is a critical route between Wellington Central and the airport, Construction may commence in 5-10 years. <https://lgwm.nz/our-plan/our-projects/the-basin-reserve-and-an-extra-mt-victoria-tunnel/>.



CRL TBM March 2021 being moved into launch position



Central Interceptor – Mangere Shaft