



## Ellerslie Noise Walls

Sections A1 & A2

**Client:**  
NZTA

**Designer:**  
White Landscape +  
Urbanism, Manaaki,  
GHD, Novare Design

**Project Contractors:**  
Fulton Hogan/John Holland  
Joint Venture, Oxcon, CLL

**Sustainability:** Due to the presence of volcanic rock and utilities infrastructure within the construction corridor, steel fibre reinforced concrete foundations were used in place of piled foundations. This provided the added benefits of a reduction in construction time, noise pollution, material and earthworks costs, and an improvement in structural resilience.

Installed as part of a programme to help reduce motorway noise for residents living near State Highway 1 in Ellerslie, the project involves the installation of nearly 3km of concrete sound barriers next to the motorway between the South Eastern Highway and the Greenlane East interchange.

A conceptual framework and series of cultural narratives was developed to inform the design of the noise wall panels. The primary theme draws comparisons between historic river transportation corridors used by Maori, and the motorway corridor as modern day equivalent. This idea is explored through a reimagining of the motorway corridor as an awa (river), and expressed through the use of a bold blue/green colour scheme representing the depth, movement, and reflectivity of water. This theme is further reinforced through reference to waka, and the incorporation of taurapa (sternpost) and tauihu (prow) elements at each end of the project (still to be installed).

Individual panels within each wall section include reference to the scales of tuatara to communicate a message of danger, warning travellers to display caution at motorway exits and onramps. These panels are complimented by tiki figures, acting as kaitiaki and providing a symbol of guardianship and protection.

FIRTH NZILA 'FULL OF SURPRISES'  
DESIGN COMPETITION  
URBAN LANDSCAPE / ENTRY

