

Mount Cook , Wellington UPDATE

Tēnā koutou katoa and welcome to the first of regular updates to keep you informed about what's happening with our developments in Mount Cook. We're keen to ensure these are useful, and welcome your feedback.

Karakia blessing at Rolleston site

Members of the Mount Cook community recently joined Kāinga Ora and others to bless and turn the soil at the Rolleston St site, ahead of work starting shortly.

Led by Taranaki Whānui kaumatua Kura Moeahu, around 40 people braved a bitter southerly for the milestone, which will see 80 modern, well-designed homes built to help meet the need for public housing for people in the inner city. These will include 20 supported living apartments which will provide homes and wrap-around services for some of the city's most vulnerable homeless people, under the Housing First Scheme.

During the archaeological assessment carried out as part of clearing the site, bricks and two small kilns connected to the former brick factory in the area were uncovered.



Kaumatua Kura Moeahu leads the karakia and sod-turning at the Rolleston St site

We have tried to cover and retain them in situ, however one will need to be removed as it is below a structural retainer wall. We are doing our best to keep the other small kiln, but until plans are finalised we won't know if this is possible. We will incorporate some of these old bricks into the community space, and a limited number were put aside and have been distributed for those wanting a memento.

Contact us

Please get in touch if you have any questions or would like to know more:

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Rolleston St development

- 80 homes
 - 36 one-bedroom
 - 29 two-bedroom
 - 15 studios
 - Community space
- All public housing
- Includes 20 Housing First supported living homes
- Completion early 2022

Meet the team

We'll be holding a Zoom meeting to introduce Hawkins Project Manager Jody Farmer, who will be leading the team building the Rolleston St homes. We'll send details for the meeting in the letter which will be delivered ahead of work starting, and which will cover hours of work, contact details, and health and safety and traffic management information. Hawkins' initial focus will include installing site fencing and hoardings, environmental controls, ground and retaining wall work, and careful removal of some vegetation where it could be a stability risk or in the way of future construction.



Heavy demolition underway at Arlington site

Work is well underway at the Arlington St site with our demolition partner Quality Demolition and Contracting (QDC) focussed on removing and clearing the tower area of the site over the next three months.

Recyclable items from the George Porter Tower building have been removed, scaffolding installed and work is progressing on the heavy demolition. A letter was recently delivered to residents by QDC around details of the work, including the need for safety reasons, for people to keep at a safe distance and to observe traffic management.

Remaining buildings on the rest of the site will be demolished in the latter part of the year, and we'll keep you updated on next stages of demolition.

The pohutukawa trees on Hopper St at the edge of the site will remain during this stage of demolition as they assist with dust mitigation, however they will need to be removed as they are located where an apartment building will go. We have explored with Wellington City Council's arborist team whether they could be transplanted, however were advised this would be unlikely to be successful given the trees' size and rootball. A comprehensive landscaping plan and planting scheme is planned for the development, including a community orchard and gardens, and we will share more about this in future newsletters.



Demolition scaffolding

What's planned at Arlington

- 300 homes
 - 152 one-bedroom
 - 101 two-bedroom
 - 37 three-bedroom
 - 7 four-bedroom
 - 3 five-bedroom
- Includes 40 supported living homes
- Approx. 233 homes public housing, 67 affordable homes currently proposed
- Community centre, parks, play areas, community gardens
- Completion mid-2023



Impression of the Arlington redevelopment including community space

Partnering with local iwi

We have been working closely with members from Taranaki Whānui around ways we can partner around an overarching narrative connected to these homes and the positive outcomes we're trying to achieve for those who will be moving into the area and for the wider local community.

This high level story or approach will feed into design concepts for communal areas at both the Rolleston St and Arlington St developments, as well as supporting connectedness as a community. We will keep you updated on this as it progresses.

Community working group

We are keen to work alongside the Mount Cook community and stakeholders to support a well-integrated and connected community.

We recently met with some residents, community groups and local stakeholders to talk about how those

moving into new homes in Rolleston St and Arlington St could be supported as they join the community.

If you are interested in exploring new ideas and opportunities, and would like to join this informal working group, please contact Senior Stakeholder Relationship Manager Renee Regal (details on front page).

Website pages and e-newsletter coming soon

We're working on webpages where we will share and update plans, images, video and other information and resources connected to the Rolleston and Arlington developments.

We are also working on sending this update as an e-newsletter. We will also be sending future updates as an e-newsletter. We will still continue to deliver them into letterboxes as we know some like to receive these in this way. If you would like to sign up for e-newsletters please email us at mountcook@kaingaora.govt.nz