

# New route to Lake Rotorangi

A Tangahoe Valley Rd ridge is being cut to create a new route to Lake Rotorangi, on Patea River.

Access to the lake was blocked when the 50-year-old tunnel collapsed recently after heavy rain and a minor earthquake.

Hawera District Council's engineering assistant, Gordon Campbell, who is overseeing the project, said the cutting was expected to take about 40 working days.

A contractor has started shifting the 80,000 cu m of soil to form the 40m deep, benched cutting.

The new road bypassing the tunnel will rejoin the existing road leading to the lake.

Mr Campbell said the public would not be able to use Tangahoe Valley Rd as access to the lake for about two months. A special route would be cut for farmers whose stock was stranded beyond the tunnel. They would have access to the other side in about two weeks.

The cost of making the cutting through the ridge, metalling and fencing the road, was expected to cost the council about \$60,000. A 46% roads board subsidy was available.

The tunnel would be blocked at both ends because it was unsafe.

Mr Campbell said the new road was a bonus for valley farmers who would now be able to drive tiered stock trucks to their land.



Tangahoe Valley Rd tunnel will be blocked at both ends after tonnes of earth caved in through the gunite lining, blocking access to Lake Rotorangi.



Hawera District Council engineering assistant Gordon Campbell is overseeing a new route to Lake Rotorangi being cut 40m deep through this ridge to one side of the collapsed tunnel. The road will slope gently through the gully pictured, to rejoin Tangahoe Valley Rd beyond the tunnel.