

Work begins on Len Lye centre and art gallery

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Work is finally under way on New Plymouth's controversial new \$12.88 million Len Lye centre and art gallery.

Contractors moved onto the work site yesterday and began preparing for demolition later this week.

By next year's completion date, the city will have a restrengthened and refurbished Govett-Brewster contemporary art gallery coupled with a new Len Lye centre.

In the meantime, one-way traffic from Devon St West will still be able to travel past the construction site on Queen St beside the White Hart, New Plymouth District Council infrastructure general manager Jim Willson says.

All the businesses in the area, including Cafe Govett-Brewster, will operate as usual. Pedestrians can use the footpath outside the White Hart.

And to improve traffic flow on Devon St West, the traffic islands are being removed and the road re-marked to allow for two lanes.

Demolition of the Red Cross and Regent buildings on the corner of Queen and Devon St West is expected to start this week once safety measures are in place, Mr Willson says.

On track: Contractors remove a power pole outside the Govett-Brewster art gallery yesterday morning. Demolition of the 80-year-old building to the left will begin this week.

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+ TDN 01/05/2013