

## MINISTERIAL BRIEFING NOTE

<b>Subject</b>	State Highway 8 New Beaumont Bridge community walkover event
<b>Date</b>	13 July 2023
<b>Briefing number</b>	BRI-2822

Contact(s) for telephone discussion (if required)				
Name	Position	Direct line	Cell phone	1 <sup>st</sup> contact
James Caygill	Director of Regional Relationships (West Coast/Canterbury/Otago/Southland)	s 9(2)(a)		✓

### Action taken by Office of the Minister

- ☐ Noted
- ☐ Seen by Minister
- ☐ Agreed
- ☐ Feedback provided
- ☐ Forwarded to
- ☐ Needs change [please specify]
- ☐ Withdrawn
- ☐ Overtaken by events

13 July 2023

**Hon David Parker – Minister of Transport**

## State Highway 8 New Beaumont Bridge community walkover event

### Purpose

1. This briefing provides you with information about the new Beaumont Bridge project, prior to the community walkover event from 12.00pm to 2.00pm on Sunday, 30 July 2023.

### Project funding and costs

2. The \$25 million investment in this project comes from the National Land Transport Fund.

### Project features

3. Key features include:
  - a modern 195-metre, two-lane bridge comprising curved steel girders, supported by four concrete piers within the riverbed,
  - high strength weathering steel beams (with a rusted look) form a corrosion-resistant surface, which will extend the life of the bridge,
  - a structure that meets the latest earthquake standards,
  - safety barriers on the bridge road approaches,
  - a two-metre-wide path separated from traffic for cyclists and pedestrians to safely cross the bridge,
  - artwork depicting the strong local iwi links with this area of the Clutha / Mata-Au River feature on concrete barriers of the bridge and retaining walls below it,
  - a landscaped safe stopping area on the eastern side of the river near the existing bridge,
  - easier access to the nearby Clutha Gold Cycle Trail via a shared path beneath the new bridge.

### Project benefits

4. Key benefits include:
  - increased resilience, accessibility, and safety on the main highway link from Dunedin to Central Otago,
  - meeting both the current and future needs of the area's agricultural, horticultural, and forestry businesses, and communities who all depend on the highway,

- improving the safe and efficient movement of road freight between Dunedin and Central Otago,
- a separated shared path that will ensure greater safety for people walking and cycling over the bridge,
- traffic no longer being stuck at the traffic signals on the old Bridge that were required to reduce vehicle speeds across the bridge deck to prolong the life of the bridge,
- an end to on-going maintenance costs to keep the aging existing bridge operating,
- converting the exiting historic single lane bridge into a link to the popular nearby Clutha Gold Cycle Trail.

### **Project context**

5. This modern, two-lane bridge replaces the current single lane Beaumont Bridge on State Highway 8 over the Clutha / Mata-Au River – the main highway link between Dunedin and Central Otago. Built in 1887, this aging bridge is no longer suited to meet the growing demands of higher traffic volumes and more heavier trucks.

### **Key messages**

6. Key messages include:
  - A modern two-lane new bridge to meet both the current and future needs of this area and wider Otago region.
  - Traffic is moving to the new bridge early so other project work can be completed. This includes turning the existing bridge into a walking and cycle link to the nearby Clutha Gold Cycle trail.
  - The new bridge will open with speed restrictions because vehicles will travel on its concrete deck until its sealed in the warmer spring months.
  - An official project opening is planned for early December 2023.
  - This bridge will increase safety, resilience, and accessibility on the main highway between Dunedin and Central Otago.
  - Improve the safe and efficient movement of road freight between Dunedin and Central Otago.
  - A separated shared path to protect people walking or cycling over the new bridge from traffic.

### **Other matters**

7. Artwork by local iwi on the new bridge barriers has generated some negativity from a small number of local and former Beaumont residents. They feel too much priority has been given to Māori culture in terms of design elements of the new bridge, and not enough to European culture and history.
8. We have responded to these concerns by explaining the importance of reflecting the strong links iwi have with this area of the river.

**Ministerial community walk over of a new bridge**

9. The event will take place on a section of the eastern road approach to the new bridge, outside of the Beaumont Hotel on State Highway 8, approximately 110 kilometres from Dunedin.
10. Short speeches will be held prior to a blessing of the new bridge. Following this, the walkover aspect of the event will commence.

**Key attendees to acknowledge**

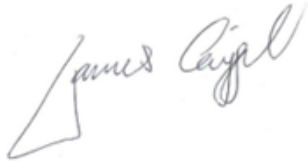
11. The key attendees invited to the Beaumont Bridge walkover ceremony include the following:
  - Clutha District Council Mayor, Bryan Cadogan.
  - Ngai Tahu representatives (who will bless the new bridge).
  - Director Regional Relationships (West Coast/Canterbury/Otago/Southland), James Caygill, Waka Kotahi.
  - HEB Construction project staff.
  - Representatives from WSP (the project consultants).

**Media**

12. We expect some local media interest.
13. This is a popular project with media whose interest has grown over the last six to nine months as the bridge has taken shape.

**It is recommended that you:**

14. **Note** the contents of this briefing.
15. **Forward** this briefing to Ingrid Leary MP



.....  
**James Caygill,**

Director Regional Relationships (West Coast/Canterbury/Otago/Southland)

.....  
**Hon David Parker, Minister of Transport**

Date: July 2023

Proactively Released