



New Beaumont Bridge

News update



It's a year since an event was held to celebrate work starting on this eagerly anticipated new two-lane bridge on SH8 over Mata-Au (the Clutha River) at Beaumont on the main highway route between Dunedin and Central Otago.

Fast forward 12 months and several key project milestones have been ticked off. The most notable being the completion of all bridge pile foundations, four main concrete piers and abutments, while the placement of the new steel bridge spans are on track to be finished in the coming months.

New approaches

A big focus over the summer construction season is completing the eastern and western road approaches to the new bridge. This important work will provide safe and efficient road connections for businesses and communities who will depend on this modern two-lane bridge. Among them, people travelling from Central Otago for health care, educational and business opportunities and tankers transporting critical aviation fuel supplies to Queenstown Airport.

What's next

There's plenty happening on site over the coming months including:

- steel girder installation
- ongoing placement of the concrete deck slabs
- applying a top coat of concrete to the deck slabs prior to them being sealed
- sealing of the new bridge surface
- bridge safety barrier installation.



Scaffolding on the western side of the bridge to enable construction crews to splice (bolt) structural steel beams

Environmental news

Required excavation of sensitive historical areas of the new bridge site has been completed and only minor items relating to late 19th century land use activities in the area were unearthed.

All lizard relocation works from within the vicinity of the eastern approach to the new bridge have been successfully carried out.

Around 80,000 tonnes of bulk material required for the new bridge embankment and road approach is being sourced within 1km of the worksite.

This means that the trucks carting it are travelling shorter distances, resulting in less engine emissions being generated. The transportation of bulk material to the bridge site should be completed by March next year.



The new bridge western abutment looking toward the eastern bank

Traffic management over summer



Taking a new approach – traffic travelling on the eastern road link to the new bridge

Traffic is now travelling on the new eastern embankment allowing work crews to place fill into the area between the embankment and eastern abutment of the new bridge – so look out for them plugging the gap.

Over the Christmas/New Year holiday period, we're dialling back our traffic management to minimise disruptions for those using the main highway to get to popular holiday destinations in Central Otago and beyond.

From Thursday, 22 December 2022, the new bridge site will close so our construction team can take a well-earned holiday break.

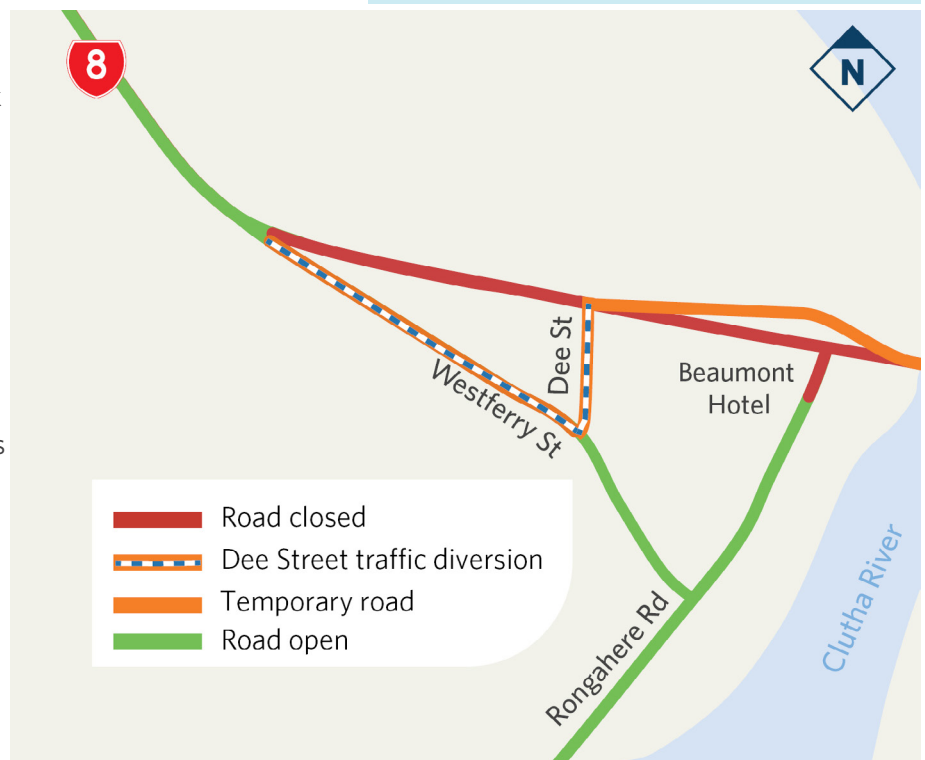
They'll be back on the job on Monday 9 January 2023. While they're away, traffic management will be scaled back to minimise delays but still maintain a strong focus on keeping people safe.

This involves a full dig-out and rebuild of the existing highway past the Beaumont Hotel. To get this job completed as quickly as possible, **from the week commencing Monday 16 January 2023**, you'll need to detour on to Dee and Westferry streets to connect with SH8 to Central Otago (see map).

This diversion is approved for all vehicle types (including 50Max, HPMV, overweight and overdimension vehicles).

Bridge facts

- A modern two-lane bridge that'll meet the current and future needs of local businesses and communities, and the wider Otago region.
- This 195-metre two-lane bridge will sit about 12 metres above the average river level and is formed by curved steel girders supported by four concrete piers.
- It features weathering steel beams (with a rusty look) made of high strength structural steel that forms a corrosion-resistant surface, prolonging the life of the bridge.
- The bridge is designed to modern earthquake standards.
- There are safety barriers on the road approaches.
- There'll be a shared walking and cycling path, so people can safely walk or bike across the new bridge.
- Construction of the bridge is expected to be completed by late 2023.



More information

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