

# 8 New Beaumont Bridge project



Work on the new \$25 million two-lane bridge on SH8 over Mata-Au (the Clutha River) at Beaumont started six months ago, with lots of visible on-site activity.

## Background

This new bridge, scheduled to open in late 2023, replaces a single lane structure that's formed a critical link for over 137 years on the main highway between Dunedin and Central Otago. The existing bridge is well past its economic life and is challenged these days by larger traffic volumes, including bigger and heavier trucks.

Designed to modern earthquake standards, the new bridge will meet both the current and future needs of businesses and communities by safely connecting people, products and places. When it opens, the existing single lane bridge will remain as a link to the popular nearby Clutha Gold Cycle Trail.

## Bridge facts

- A modern two-lane 195 metre steel girder bridge supported by four piers within the riverbed.
- Designed to meet the latest earthquake standards.
- Bridge piles are drilled up to 14 metres into solid rock.
- Incorporates a two-metre-wide shared path separating pedestrians and cyclists from bridge traffic.
- Safety barriers on the road approaches to the new bridge.
- A landscaped safe stopping area on the eastern side of the river near the existing bridge.



## The last six months



### Temporary work platforms

A good start has been made on the above temporary work platforms over Mata-Au (the Clutha River) that works crews will use to build the new bridge from.

Piling for the new bridge abutments and piers is progressing, along with forming road approaches on both sides of the river.

### Local road upgrades

Upgrades have been made to nearby local roads, including West Ferry and Dee Streets, improving access to SH8 at the Dee Street Intersection. These roads are now safer and easier for people to move about the area whether they're cycling, driving or walking.

Rongahere Road, on the western riverbank and Weardale Street across the river, were permanently closed in April to free up land needed for the new bridge approaches.

### Ecological aspects

An important ecological element of the project has been completed with the trapping and rehoming of 165 native southern grass skinks to a safe location in the Beaumont area. Relocating the lizards was carried out by people with expertise in this field. A management plan and regular monitoring is planned to help ensure the lizards settle successfully into their new environment.

We've also retained important and protected trees adjacent to the site including Oak trees planted by the early settlers. To accommodate the new bridge alignment, these have been trimmed to meet the resource consent conditions for this project. A large walnut tree on the east bank has been fenced off and will remain untouched throughout the project.

Around 35,000 cubic metres of material has been sourced from quarries in the wider area to build road approaches and embankments leading to the new bridge. Using quarries in the general area has meant fewer vehicle emissions than would have been generated if trucks had to transport the material from quarries much further from the site.

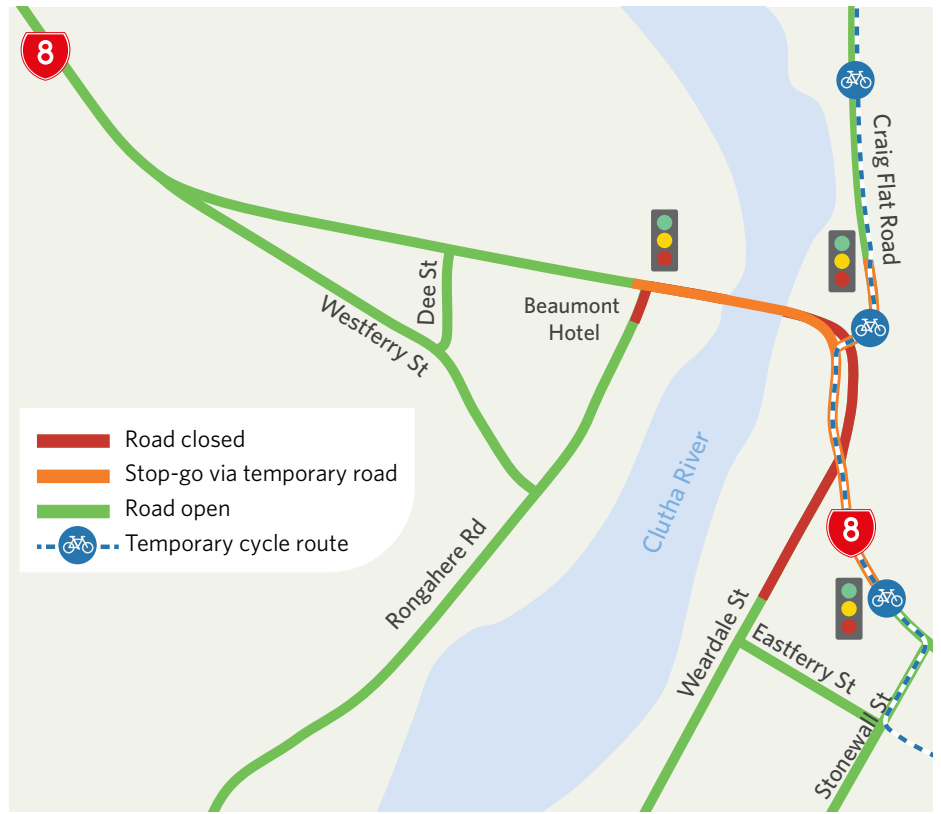


## The next six months

To accommodate construction, a 600-metre temporary single lane road is now operating, ensuring freight and people keep moving while this critical work is carried out. Traffic on this temporary road will be managed 24/7 by signals.

Depending on work progress, the road may be operational for a year or more. Access will be available 24/7 for emergency vehicles. If your travel involves using this route, allow extra time for your journey. Delays should be under five minutes, but depending on site work requirements, could stretch to eight minutes. The Beaumont Hotel car park can still be accessed off Dee Street.

Realigning SH8 with the new bridge is complex. At the corner of Weardale Street, the new highway alignment will be three metres above the current ground level and nearly four metres at Rongahere Road.



## Piling work

Between now and the end of the year, look out for ongoing piling for the new bridge abutments and piers, along with the formation of the road approaches. During this period, the temporary work platform will have stretched across Mata-Au (the Clutha River), with work crews using it to build the new bridge.

Bridge girders are being fabricated in Napier and as they're completed, will be transported to the new bridge site. During construction there are between 40 to 70 workers on site at any one time, comprising a mix of locals and people from other parts of the country.

The support and patience of locals has helped get the project to this stage.



## Get in touch

If you have any comments or questions about the project, check our website: [www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/beaumont-bridge](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/beaumont-bridge) or email us at: [beaumontbridge@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:beaumontbridge@nzta.govt.nz)