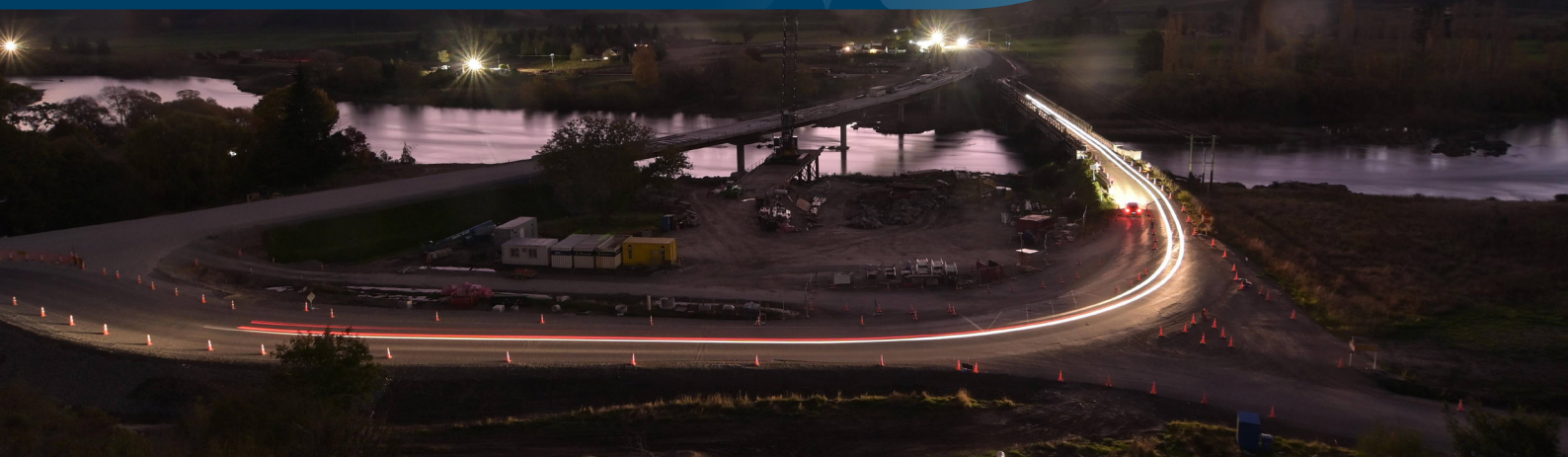


8 New Beaumont Bridge



A successful summer construction season means the eagerly awaited new two-lane Beaumont Bridge project is on track for completion by the end of this year.

Settled weather and the efforts of construction crews were behind the great progress made in the last five months on an important link over the Clutha River | Mata-Au on the main highway between Dunedin and Central Otago. When it opens, the bridge will contribute to a land transport system that safely connects people, products, and places, all cornerstones of a thriving Otago region.

The new two-lane bridge replaces the current single-lane bridge built in 1887, one of the few wrought iron bridges left on our highway network.



The January installation of the two girders, shown above, completed a 195m steel bridge structure across the Clutha River | Mata-Au, and ended a job which started five months earlier. The teams involved in placing the final two girders battled scorching summer temperatures to conclude a job that was the culmination of 12 months of work. This included building the bridge piers and placing the steel girders on these to carry the deck.

Having all the girders in place, paved the way to finish two months of concrete work to form a continuous bridge surface from one side of the [Clutha] river to the other.



*Crew busy with the final concrete deck pour completed in April.
Photo supplied by the ODT*

Finishing the road approaches to both sides of the new bridge by the end of the summer construction was a real achievement. It was a major job requiring a full dig-out and rebuild of the existing highway past the Beaumont Hotel. All this effort ensures everyone has safe access to both sides of the new two-lane bridge.



Safety barriers being fitted on the western road approach to the new bridge

Environmental

One of quirkier jobs the project team has tackled was successfully trapping and safely rehoming, with the help of lizard experts, over 160 native southern grass skinks living in an area needed for a road approach to the new bridge. The photo below shows a specially designed habitat created to make these ancient locals feel right at home.

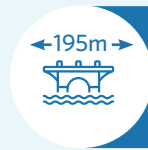


What is next?

Traffic could be using the new bridge from late July to enable the completion of other on-site work. A temporary speed limit will apply because vehicles will be driving on an un-sealed surface running on the bridge's new concrete deck. Sealing must wait until spring when temperatures are warm enough.

From early August until late November, work will focus on landscaping and road surfacing and turning the old bridge into a walking and cycling link. This uses underpasses on the new bridge to connect people to the popular Clutha Gold Trail Cycle Trail, the Beaumont Hotel and local township.

New bridge facts



A modern 195m long two-lane bridge meeting the current and future needs of local businesses and communities, and wider Otago region.



Formed by curved steel girders supported by four concrete piers.



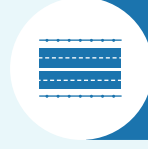
The new bridge is 12m above the average river level.



Features weathering steel beams (with a rusty look) built from high strength structural steel that forms a corrosion-resistant surface, prolonging the life of the bridge.



Designed to modern earthquake standards.



Safety barriers on the new bridge road approaches.



A shared separated path is provided for cyclists and pedestrians to safely the new bridge.

More information

Email Mike Thomas, Project Manager michael.thomas@nzta.govt.nz or visit us online at www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/beaumont-bridge



Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government