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Kawarau Falls Bridge Replacement Project

PROJECT UPDATE

MARCH 2017

There are plenty of signs that the new two-lane Kawarau Falls Bridge is taking shape, and these are now easy to distinguish from the temporary construction trestles being used to build the bridge.



The smooth concrete lines and solid yet slender new bridge piers are rising from the fast flowing waters of the Kawarau River as the deck reaches out to meet them. Work is underway on excavating the fourth and fifth river piles along with the new bridge abutment on the Frankton side of the river.

Recently the Prime Minister, Rt Hon. Bill English and the Minister of Transport the Hon Simon Bridges visited the construction site. They both saw for themselves a project milestone, with the launch of the first section of bridge decking.

Comprising of several massive steel girders, the superstructure was edged out over the river with a unique steel 'nose' attached to the end of it. The nose is a fabricated extension to the first section of the bridge superstructure enabling it to extend out to the next bridge pier as the superstructure is launched into place.

Hydraulics allow the bridge nose to be manipulated up or down to ensure better alignment of the steel sections and bridge piers. McConnell Dowell engineer Paul Lavoipierre, said he had been "waiting for the right project to use this cool engineering device". Check out this short video clip of the bridge nose in action <http://www.facebook.com/515412995209755/posts/1280938478657199>



One of the 40 truckloads of steel required to construct the bridge deck arrive at the site, with the largest of the girders weighing more than two elephants and around 16 metres long.

AERIAL VIEW

From this photo, taken before the first section of decking was launched, you can see on the right the steel lined up in the staging area, ready to be pushed out to form the skeleton of the new bridge deck.



TRAVEL PLANNING

There is going to be a lot of transport related work happening in and around Frankton over the next few months to get the areas heavy traffic volumes moving more freely. In addition to the new Kawarau Falls Bridge, a second lane on the SH6/6A BP roundabout is scheduled to open in April.

Work is in full swing on the new Eastern Access Road around Queenstown Airport. This Queenstown Lakes District Council project will provide an alternative route to SH6 for those travelling east and south of Frankton. With all this work in the Frankton area, please allow a few more minutes when planning your journey. The latest highway traffic information in the Queenstown and Frankton areas can be found at www.highwayinfo.govt.nz or follow NZTA Canterbury/WC (@NZTACWC) on Twitter.

This photo from the 1920's, shows the deck for the existing single lane Kawarau Falls Bridge's was built on very unstable looking temporary structures. How times have changed.



PROJECT OVERVIEW

The project team will construct a total of five single column piers in the river and abutments on each river bank.

Paths will also link via underpasses on either side of the new bridge to connect with the historic bridge, which will be transformed into a walking and cycle route.

A park area will be created on the northern river bank and provide a stunning vantage point across the falls and the old and new bridges. Features such as the historic turbine will be reinstated in the park to celebrate both the future and the past.

THE NEW BRIDGE WILL PROVIDE:

- » more predictable journey times
- » better traffic flows especially during peak ski season
- » improved links to Queenstown International Airport, Frankton Flats and Queenstown
- » safer and more efficient movement of freight and people south of Queenstown to key destination including Milford Sound and Invercargill.

Working hours:

The project team is on site from 7am to 7pm Monday to Saturday.

If you have any questions, please call 0508 KAWARAU or 0508 529 2728.

PROJECT CONTACTS

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Keep up with progress at:
www.nzta.govt.nz/kawarau-falls

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WAKA KOTAHI