



Kawarau Falls Bridge Replacement Project

PROJECT UPDATE

OCTOBER 2017



The new two-lane Kawarau Falls Bridge pictured above is rapidly taking shape, with its clean lines and sweeping curves all clearly visible, now the construction trestle has been removed from the bridge.

Expect two-way flows on SH6 over the Kawarau Falls using a combination of the new and the existing bridges from mid-December until early January in time to ease what is traditionally a bottleneck on the local highway network during the Christmas/New Year holiday period. The new bridge will carry two-way traffic from early April. The entire project including landscaping and converting the existing bridge to a walking and cycling route will be finished in June 2018.

Approximately 100 cubic metres of concrete was poured in August for the final sections of the deck and an abutment. The team worked round the clock to get the bridge deck in place and complete the work so a start could be made on installing new water and waste water pipes under the bridge, on behalf of the Queenstown Lakes District Council.

From now until the end of the year work will focus on installing these pipes and constructing the bridge road approaches.



Long hours have been put in to complete the new bridge deck

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

Traffic management has been put in place to provide access to areas under and at either end of the bridge where the new pipes need to be installed. An island worksite has been created so traffic can flow around this and the temporary traffic lights have been relocated to create more space and to help reduce delays for bridge users.

Queenstown roads are extremely busy, especially between the BP Roundabout and Kawarau Falls Bridge. Traffic during the peak morning and afternoon periods is often well over the vehicle capacity of the existing single-lane bridge. The NZ Transport Agency and new Kawarau Falls Bridge contractor are doing their best to keep traffic moving.

A good way to help avoid traffic delays is to use the excellent travel planning tools and advice available free online at www.journeys.nzta.govt.nz/kawarau-bridge

THE BIGGER PICTURE

Work has progressed on several fronts to improve traffic flows in Frankton, most notably the opening of Hawthorne Drive in mid-December. This will provide an alternative route to the busy SH6 BP roundabout for those driving between Frankton and the Shotover River.

From 20 November, the roll-out of new public transport services in the Wakatipu Basin will mean there is a genuine alternative to travelling by car (with a flat \$2 fare if you have a GoCard).

Meanwhile, the Queenstown Transport Governance Group, a partnership between the Transport Agency, Queenstown Lakes District Council, Otago Regional Council and Queenstown Airport, continue to work together on addressing the transport issues facing the Wakatipu Basin.

YOUNG ENGINEERS BUILD THEIR OWN BRIDGES

Jim Washbrooke, Project Manager for McConnell Dowell and Phil Dowsett Senior Projects Manager from the Transport Agency recently visited Garston School south of Queenstown to talk with the students about the new two-lane bridge. As part of the visit they did an experiment with the budding constructors, where piles were made using jelly, honey, a spoon and half a plastic cup.

The kids loved excavating the piles (eating the jelly out of the middle of the cup casings). The honey simulated how wet concrete fills up the casings and displaces any remaining water.

The experiment was a huge hit with the students young and old, teachers and parent helpers. Jim and Phil had fun managing a project team with so much enthusiasm and hope to visit more schools before the bridge project is completed.



Two young constructors test the jelly water combination before they begin the piling process



PROJECT CONTACTS

McConnell Dowell **0508 KAWARAU (0508 529 2728)** or
 Phil Dowsett NZ Transport Agency Project Manager phil.dowsett@nzta.govt.nz
 Keep up with progress at: www.nzta.govt.nz/kawarau-falls

