



NEW TWO-LANE KAWARAU FALLS BRIDGE

OVERVIEW

A new two-lane bridge on State Highway 6 over the Kawarau Falls has been mooted for several years, as one of several long-term improvements to manage the area's traffic growth.

The new bridge will help ease traffic congestion resulting from strong tourism growth and the associated upsurge in commercial and residential developments. While structurally sound, the existing single-lane bridge vehicle volume is now well beyond its capacity, especially during peak travel periods.

The new two-lane Kawarau Falls Bridge is a significant player in a wider transport improvement plan for the Wakatipu Basin involving the NZ Transport Agency, Queenstown Lakes District Council, Otago Regional Council and Queenstown Airport Corporation.

The plan aims to tackle the transport issues facing the Wakatipu Basin, stemming from a visitor boom that is expected to continue for several more years.



PROJECT BENEFITS

- › Address pressing short to medium-term traffic growth issues facing the Frankton Flats area.
- › When both lanes of the new bridge open in April 2018, local residents and visitors to Queenstown can expect less traffic congestion and more predictable journey times.
- › Provide more secure highway access south of Queenstown with a modern bridge that's less vulnerable to extended closures.
- › Eliminate queues at the existing single-lane bridge.
- › Improved road access to Queenstown International Airport, the Frankton Flats and central Queenstown.
- › Ensure the safer and more efficient movement of freight, services and people south of Queenstown to destinations including Milford Sound, Te Anau and Invercargill.
- › Improved road links to residential developments south of Frankton.
- › Better access to the Wakatipu lakeside cycling and walking track network managed by the Queenstown Trails Trust.
- › Easier access to the historic Kawarau Falls dam structure.

 For more information about this project, go to www.nzta.govt.nz/kawarau-falls