



**Kā Huanui
a Tāhuna**

Huanui pānui

(paths and roadways newsletter)

Kā Huanui a Tāhuna is an alliance partnership between NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) and Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) along with four design and construction companies, Beca, WSP, Downer New Zealand and Fulton Hogan.

4 April 2024

Kia ora koutou,

Today we welcomed the Minister of Transport, Hon Simeon Brown, to Frankton Golf Centre where he announced a \$250m investment in key transport improvements. The SH6/6A Frankton Intersection and Bus Hub Improvements project will help ease congestion, provide greater capacity for buses, and address safety issues.

At the start of the event we were honoured to have Justin Tipa, Kaiwhakahaere (Chair) of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, bless the site in recognition of the cultural and spiritual significance of the land, and to cleanse and bestow new energy at the beginning of the project.

Later, the Minister stood together with QLDC Mayor Glyn Lewers, MP for Southland Joseph Mooney and the Kāi Tahu leader to mark this significant investment and celebrate the beginning of construction.

Once built, it will be easier to get around Frankton, give people more choice about how they travel and help relieve some pressure at this important connection point. Read on for what you can expect to see happen during the first stage of work.

In March, our construction team on the new Town Centre Arterial hosted a site visit with the Kāi Tahu artists who designed the artwork on one of our largest retaining walls. Check out this great story, together with some photos showing how far we've come with the Lakeview Infrastructure project.

Thanks for reading,

Kā Huanui a Tāhuna team

What's the Latest: NZ Upgrade Programme Queenstown Package



L-R: Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu Kaiwhakahaere Justin Tipa, MP for Southland Joseph Mooney, Minister of Transport Hon Simeon Brown, and QLDC Mayor Glyn Lewers mark the beginning of construction.

SH6/6A Frankton Intersection and Bus Hub Improvements project

We're upgrading the SH6 and 6A intersection to traffic signals, doubling the size of the Bus Hub, adding traffic lights at the SH6 intersection with Joe O'Connell Drive to coordinate with the Frankton intersection traffic lights, and building a roundabout at the intersection of SH6 and Howards Drive.

So why are we doing this work?

As Minister Brown said today, "With more than 40,000 vehicles passing through each day at peak times, the current SH6/6A Frankton intersection has become incredibly congested and inefficient.

"Tourism is returning to pre-COVID restriction levels, and continued growth in the Whakatipu Basin means upgrades to this critical intersection will ensure local commuters and visitors can get to where they are going quickly, and easily."

Construction timing

There is a significant amount of work to do, and construction is expected to take four years to complete. We know this is a long time and that road works are frustrating and disruptive, particularly for residents and businesses in the area. We'll be doing our best to minimise disruption where we can.



It's going to be better, and it's great to be underway - but it's going to take time.

For the first 18 months we'll be moving underground utilities (power, water, fibre, and gas), removing trees, and installing a large new stormwater pipe. There will be minimal disruption to the state highways and the Frankton intersection during that time.

As we move into construction you can expect to see team members door knocking, circulating information leaflets, and sharing updates on social media and via this e-newsletter. We want to provide you with the most up-to-date information as quickly as we can, so you can be prepared and plan your travel.

Tree removal

From this Monday, 8 April, we'll begin removing 33 trees, 29 shrubs and a hedge on the Frankton Golf Centre side of SH6 Kawarau Road and Ladies Mile.

This will give us the room we need to begin relocating existing and installing new underground services, so they're in the right place once we start changing road layouts. It'll also allow us to create the new entrance and carpark for the Golf Centre.

Trees are an important part of every community, but this must be balanced with the need to provide better options for people to get around the growing area.

A short section of SH6 will be closed for safety from **5-6am on Mon 8, Tue 9 and Mon 15 April** when our contractor fells the trees. Detours will be clearly signposted, with updates on the [QLDC](#) and [NZTA](#) Facebook pages.

We have been working closely with QLDC to make sure that our tree removal is in line with Council's tree policy, including that for every one tree removed from QLDC property, two trees or shrubs will be replanted. Scan the QR Code below to view our Landscape Mitigation Plan, and there's detailed information on our website [here](#).



The mulch and wood from the felled trees will be put to good use by local charities and organisations including the Whakatipu Reforestation Trust and the Queenstown Lions Club – check out the full story and photos in our next Pānui.

Community drop-in sessions

Got a question for our team about the work ahead? Come and chat to us, and learn about how construction will be staged:

St. Margarets Wakatipu Presbyterian Church, Ross Street:

Wednesday 10 April 12-4pm

Thursday 11 April 3-7pm

Outside Pak n Save Queenstown, 302 Hawthorne Drive:

Thursday 11 April 11am-1pm

Remarkables Market, 23 Hawthorne Drive:

Saturday 13 April 9am-2pm



Come along to a drop-in session if you have any queries about the changes planned.

Bus stops, no stopping and parking changes

Over the next few months, we'll seek feedback from identified property owners about changes to bus stops, no stopping lines and parking around Frankton.

We'll work directly with property owners and occupiers where we need specific feedback on these items and information will be circulated to those in the immediate areas.

For these changes to be legally enforceable once in place, some of these elements require us to follow a statutory process and others require approval from QLDC and NZTA Waka Kotahi.

For more information

There is lots of information on our website about the SH6/6A Frankton Intersection and Bus Hub Improvements project – check it out at www.nzta.govt.nz/nzup-queenstown.

You can also contact the project team by emailing info@wtpa.co.nz or by phoning [0800 482 684](tel:0800482684).

If you'd like to receive upcoming Work Notices for this project, please email info@wtpa.co.nz with 'Work Notice' in the subject line and we'll add your email address to our database.

What's the Latest: Town Centre Arterial (Stage 1)

Kāi Tahu artists welcomed to site

When is a retaining wall far more than just a wall?

When it features stunning artwork interwoven with mana whenua values and narratives, that's when!

The designs that adorn the precast concrete retaining wall panels on Melbourne Street continue the cultural themes that were integrated into the Town Centre Upgrades. It's the result of collaboration between mana whenua, Aukaha (a mana whenua owned organisation), Kāi Tahu artists, and the Kā Huanui a Tāhuna Alliance.

Our Arterials construction team were excited to get a visit from representatives of each organisation and St Joseph's School, to see firsthand the visual impact of the 19 panels which form part of the Beetham and Melbourne Streets retaining wall, adjacent to St Joseph's Catholic Church.

The tenacity and strength of famous Kāti Māmoe ancestress Hākitekura is one of many Kāi Tahu pūrākau (legends) being celebrated through the artwork, together with the celebration of ahikaarao (longstanding occupation) and wāhi tīpuna (significant sites).

The project is named He Pae Mauka (referring to the various mountains surrounding the location) and you can read more about its origins and development on the Aukaha website, [here](#).



(Left) Artist James York, who also codDesigned the retaining wall near the boundary between Brecon Street and the Queenstown Cemetery, with Keri Whitiri, Design Lead from Aukaha.

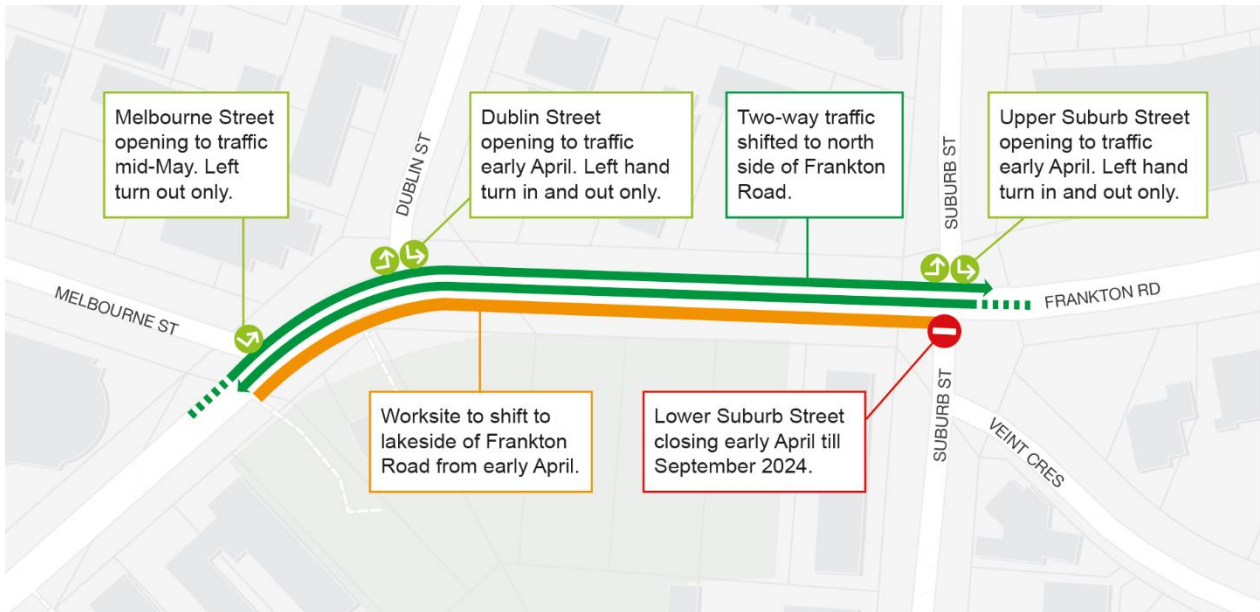
(Top Right) Artist Marlon Williams points out features of the artwork to Aukaha Communications Manager Dani McDonald.

(Lower Right) L-R: Keri Whitiri (Aukaha), Jennifer Rendall (Artist), Angie York, James York (Artist), Catkin Bartlett (St Joseph's School), Alan Grant (Principal of St Joseph's School) and Marlon Williams (Artist).

Reminder – traffic swap on Frankton Road

We've done 90% of the work to upgrade water supply, stormwater and wastewater pipes along Frankton Road, between Melbourne and Suburb Streets. This means our crews can now swap two-way traffic over to the other side of Frankton Road.

This shift will happen early on Monday morning, depending on weather, so please take care with changed lane layouts as you head through this area.



There's only a small amount of work left to do on the lakefront side of Frankton Road.

You can read more about the Town Centre Arterial project, including lots of FAQs at <http://www.qldc.govt.nz/town-centre-arterial-road>.

What's the Latest: Lakeview

It's been a busy month at Lakeview with Thompson Street set to open again this month; we'll let you know ahead of time when that will happen. Meanwhile there have been lots more finishing touches – from putting in balustrades on the retaining walls to keep people safe, to benches and signage on the streets, planting trees, installing street lights, and laying the asphalt on the existing section of Isle Street.

The above ground improvements are easy to see, but don't forget the extensive underground work that's been done over the past two and a half years.



Check out these before and after shots - from October 2021, to March 2024... what a difference.

From digging six-metre-deep trenches for new drainage pipes, to installing all of the new underground infrastructure that connects the existing network in town to the new utility and wastewater, stormwater and freshwater services built at Lakeview – it's been a huge job, and is all about future-proofing the capacity of our growing region.

We've also made sure that the landscape architecture in this area is similar to what people have seen put in place for the Town Centre Street Upgrades – so different areas of the township feel connected and part of the overall picture.

Q&As

We appreciate your comments and feedback. If you have anything you would like to know, please email info@wtpa.co.nz. We'll continue to answer your questions in future newsletters.

This month's Q&As are about the start of early works at the SH6/6A Frankton Intersection and Bus Hub Improvements project, including the removal of trees adjacent to Frankton Golf Centre.

We know the community will have many more questions so you'll find lots of detailed information on our website at www.nzta.govt.nz/nzup-queenstown.

SH6/6A Frankton Intersection and Bus Hub Improvements project

Why can't you work throughout the night to speed up works?

The SH6/6A Frankton roundabout and surrounding parts of SH6 and SH6A are built up and the impacts of continuous night works would adversely affect residents and businesses. There are also other constraints such as restricted hours of work and cost that make nightworks impractical. Some short periods of nightwork will be required for specific activities which cannot be completed during the day to keep the traffic moving at the intersection. Adjacent residents, road users and the wider community will be notified and kept up to date with planned night works in advance of these occurring.

Why can't you close the road and just get it done?

There is no viable detour route to enable a full or partial closure of the SH6/6A intersection or state highway approaches for any reasonable length of time. Arthurs Point is a long detour with a single lane bridge already subject to some congestion and with icy conditions and downhill approaches in the winter, as well as being the main road to Coronet Peak ski-field which gets busy during ski season. While locals may feel comfortable using this route, it is not suitable for tourists or those unfamiliar with the roads.

How will you support businesses during construction?

We have been engaging with local businesses and we will continue to do this as we get closer to construction works starting so that we can best manage temporary access/parking impacts and keep businesses updated around temporary construction staging and traffic management changes. We will use signage to help customers navigate through the area so they can continue to visit businesses. As we move into construction there will be team members door knocking, circulating information leaflets and providing updates on social media and via our e-newsletter.

Tree removal

Does the tree removal have QLDC approval?

Yes, the application for tree removal has been approved by QLDC. The Landscape Mitigation Plan for the project specifies that for every one tree removed from QLDC property, two will be planted over the course of the project.

Why remove good trees?

The prominent tree species along the eastern side of the corridor (golf course side) are Douglas Fir, European Larch, and Cypress, noting these are wilding species. Their condition has been assessed by an independent arborist as “G” good or “F” for fair. The arborist report notes that while these species were appropriate for the site at the time of planting, attitudes have significantly changed against wilding pine species to favour native species that don’t contribute to further seed dispersal and wilding tree problems.

Could you save some trees by changing the golf club entrance?

Moving the entrance further towards the SH6/6A intersection would prevent major, necessary utility service relocations for electricity, stormwater, and fibre. These utilities carry vital services to Queenstown Airport and Jacks Point. Existing utilities must be carefully moved back from the new wider road corridor at the intersection of SH6/6A.

[For more information on the Queenstown Town Centre Street Upgrades programme please click here](#)

[For more information on the Queenstown Town Centre Arterial Stage 1 please click here](#)

[For more information on the Lakeview Development please click here](#)

[For more information on the NZ Upgrade Programme please click here](#)

[For more information on the Wakatipu Active Travel Network please click here](#)

The Kā Huanui a Tāhuna team thank you for your patience. We are listening to your feedback and working hard to minimise disruption.

Please contact us should you have any queries or concerns:



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