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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.

3 May 2024

Kia ora koutou,

We're well underway on a number of fronts since the launch of the Frankton Intersection and Bus Hub Improvements project in early April. We've removed trees and shrubs at the Golf Centre where we needed to make room for upcoming work, held community drop-in sessions so people could find out more about the project, and are moving key stormwater and power services.

Now that the night work on Joe O'Connell Drive is finished, our focus turns to the long-term pathway that will make it safer for people walking and cycling along SH6 Ladies Mile to the Frankton Intersection, or getting between the Golf Centre and Events Centre.

Closer to Queenstown, we've just opened Duke Street, ahead of schedule. We're continuing the stormwater upgrades on the lakefront side of Frankton Road, preparing for Melbourne Street to open in a couple of weeks, and keeping businesses, residents and drivers informed about necessary work at the intersection of Sydney and Melbourne Streets.

Thanks for reading,

Kā Huanui a Tāhuna team

SH6/6A Frankton Intersection and Bus Hub Improvements Project

Powering up Frankton for the future

Over the last two weeks we've worked with Aurora Energy to enable an upgrade of the main underground power supply at Frankton, bolstering the security of the electricity supply for Frankton, Jack's Point and beyond.

With the power cable to the Queenstown Events Centre (QEC) running at - or higher than - capacity, the Frankton Intersection and Bus Hub Improvements Project provides an opportunity to strengthen QEC's ability to meet current and future electricity demand.

The new power cable will be installed from Five Mile retail centre, around the edge of the rugby fields and under Joe O'Connell Drive. It will continue across the golf course to join with another main cable near Ross Street.



The power cable is one of several utility services being shifted away from the Frankton roundabout ahead of building the new road layout. (Imagery copyright 2024 Google, Map data copyright 2024.)

The critical power supply of Queenstown Airport will also be made more resilient, with the new cable forming a circuit that's independent of the existing feed to the airport.

The initial trenching finished early this morning and is one of the many vital utility upgrades strengthening Frankton and Queenstown as part of this project. This includes the major stormwater upgrade, which we'll cover in the next Huanui Pānui.

Donated mulch aiding local organisations



A truckload of mulch delivered for the Whakatipu Reforestation Trust's replanting efforts.

Trees are an integral part of our ecosystem but even when they need to be removed, they can continue to benefit local environmental – and community – initiatives.

Following the removal of 33 trees, 29 shrubs and a hedge from the golf course adjacent to the Frankton Intersection, our contractor Tree Care Southern Lakes delivered truckloads of mulch to the Whakatipu Reforestation Trust's Whitechapel site and to the Tucker Beach Wildlife Reserve replanting site.

Karen O'Donahoo, Operations Manager at the [Whakatipu Reforestation Trust](#), said the organisation was sincerely grateful to the Kā Huanui a Tāhuna alliance for providing a substantial quantity of mulch to their keystone site in Jardine Park.

“The mulch has been strategically stockpiled in preparation for site development, enabling the planting of approximately 4000 native trees and shrubs by community volunteers over the next two years,” she said.

“Mulch serves as a vital component for the success of our planting initiatives. It not only suppresses the regrowth of invasive weeds, thus reducing competition for nutrients among young plants, but also plays a crucial role in stabilising soil temperature and preserving optimal moisture levels.

“Furthermore, as the mulch gradually decomposes, it releases essential nutrients into the soil. This process is especially beneficial for rehabilitating the soil structure in an area previously impacted by a conifer plantation.”

Project team hosts drop-in sessions

Our community drop-in sessions all went ahead last month, although heavy rain meant we had to pack up our stand at Pak’n’Save supermarket a little earlier than planned.

Fortunately the weather improved for the weekend so we were able to share lots of information about the project at our stall at the Remarkables Market. Our contact details are below if you have any questions about the project.



Our stand at the Remarkables Market with project information on display.

New Frankton Golf Centre layout tees off

The Frankton Golf Centre’s Royale Frankton Open competition, held at Easter, was a success with the course’s new 9th hole testing golfers and setting new course records.

The new layout for the 9th hole came as a result of QLDC and Frankton Golf Centre (FGC) working closely with NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi during the planning of the Frankton Intersection and Bus Hub Improvements project.

During planning, it was identified that approximately 8,230m² of FGC land would be needed to create space for the transport infrastructure upgrades, meaning the centre was faced with a choice: to remove the 9th hole or adjust the course.

Community consultation on the land disposal revealed that losing a hole was not supported by golfers, so the only acceptable 'course' of action was to change the layout of the 9th hole so that it could remain a 9-hole course.

This work was completed and to celebrate, FGC held the Royale Frankton Open on Friday 29 March where golfers had a chance to get out on the new course and set a record for the new layout.



*All smiles at the event - local golfers Lyndon Thomas (L) and Richard Thomas (R).
Photo credit: Mountain Scene*

Sport and Recreation Manager Simon Battrick said the collaboration between NZTA, the Kā Huanui a Tāhuna alliance and the community delivered the best possible result for golfers.

“There has been a lot of time and effort invested to benefit the whole community and golfers alike,” Mr Battrick said. “The Royale Frankton Open was a huge success, 101 players turned up to set the new course record which was even par across 18 holes.”

For more information

Full details about the SH6/6A Frankton Intersection and Bus Hub Improvements project can be found at our website, <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/queenstown-upgrade-package/>.

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.

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

Steady progress on new arterial road

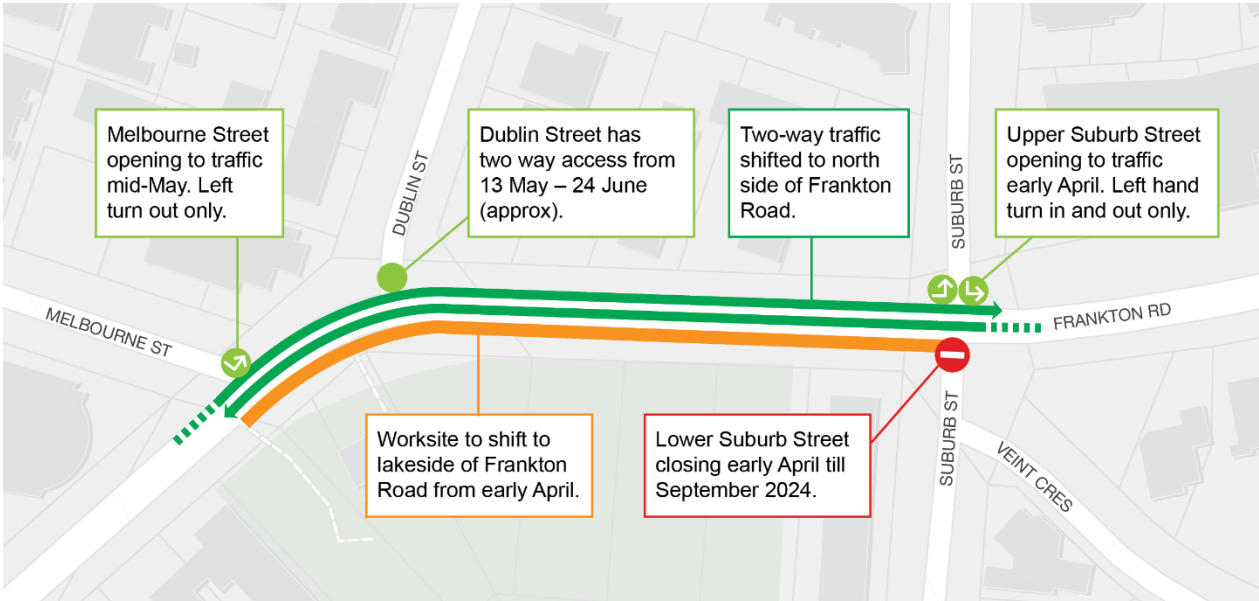
Upper Suburb Street and Dublin Street are now open to traffic, reducing some of the pressure on our local roads.

Significant upgrades to underground services at the gateway to the new arterial road are 90% complete, so we're now working on the lake side of Frankton Road to finish the final stormwater upgrades needed here. These upgrades vastly improve the capacity and resilience of the local water supply, wastewater and stormwater systems.

Early next week we'll be doing some work on Frankton Road, to create a safe turning bay for people to turn right into Dublin Street. This is needed to keep traffic moving during our next stage of work at the intersection of Sydney and Melbourne Streets, from Monday 13 May, which will require some roads to be partly closed.

The work at the intersection is to lower some existing services, prepare and seal the new road surface. Once the intersection is reopened, at about the end of June, Dublin Street will revert to left in, left out access.

We're on track for Melbourne Street to open in mid-May, although entry and exit will be restricted to left-turning traffic only.



As a reminder, the map above shows how people will be able to move through this area.

What's the Latest: Lakeview

Milestone as Thompson Street opens



Thompson Street - open for use.

The opening of Thompson Street earlier this week further extends the network of pathways around Tāhuna Queenstown which are giving people on foot, scooter or bikes a safer and more enjoyable travel experience.

The road has a slightly new layout so please stay alert as drivers adjust to the change. Specific changes to be aware of include:

- additional road markings to indicate Thompson Street as a priority through route
- a new stop sign at the top of Brunswick Street (this was previously a give way).

We would like to extend a huge thank you to all neighbours, businesses and residents in the area for your patience during construction.



Thompson Street drivers have priority through the intersection of Thompson Street, Brunswick Street and Glasgow Street.

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 staging of work for the SH6/6A Frankton Intersection and Bus Hub Improvements project, as this was a common question at our community drop-in sessions, as well as how this project fits together with the new Arterial road.

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.

How long will it take to complete the work?

The construction work to upgrade the intersections and Bus Hub in Frankton is anticipated to take four years to complete.

Why will the works take this long?

We know this is a long time and that road works are frustrating. Several factors have influenced this timeframe:

- The SH6/6A Frankton intersection is an important connection point for the whole Queenstown area and beyond. We must keep the intersection functioning and maintain one way traffic flow in each direction during construction of the new intersection layout. There is no viable detour route that can be used to complete the works faster.
- There is a limited construction season, and it is not possible to surface or construct road pavements during the winter season from May to August due to the local climate and freezing and thawing of the pavement. The ground temperature is at 0 degrees or less all winter – and even without this consideration, it wouldn't be dry enough to successfully surface new roads.
- Night works are limited at the SH/6A Frankton roundabout and surrounding area because the impacts of continuous night works would adversely affect residents and businesses. Some short nightwork will be required for specific activities which cannot be completed during the day to keep the traffic moving at the intersection.
- Moving underground utilities (power, water, fibre, and gas) as part of this project forms a large part of the first year of the construction programme, during which time there will not be significant effects on the state highway. This upgrade work is being done at the same time to avoid further roadworks in the future.

Once it's finished, how is this project going to benefit people?

The new intersection layout, controlled by traffic signals instead of a roundabout, has been designed to manage the needs of everyone who uses this intersection.

Traffic signals are better at managing demand compared to roundabouts because they allow vehicles coming from any direction to get a fair amount of time to move through the intersection, rather than traffic coming from one particular direction getting priority. Signals will adjust in real time to manage the flow. This means a smoother flow through the intersection from all directions. Additional lanes will also create some increased capacity.

Signalised pedestrian crossings will be included to make it easier to cross the state highway to get to shops and businesses and there will be on-road cycle lanes and smoother transitions for cyclists from on-road to off-road shared paths. New traffic signals will mean better entry and exit for buses to the upgraded Bus Hub on SH6 Kawarau Road.

Why are you starting work on the SH6/6A Frankton Intersection when Arterials Stage 1 isn't finished?

We are actively managing the network impact of both projects and designing the SH6/6A construction for low traffic impact at the beginning of the work.

SH6/6A intersection work in 2024 is mostly on the golf course. Through autumn and winter 2024, there will be no general traffic disruption at the Frankton roundabout, other than some limited night work.

Roads affected by the Arterials project will progressively open to public traffic in stages through 2024. In April 2024, upper Suburb Street and Dublin Street reopened to public traffic. Melbourne Street from Frankton Road will open in mid-May.

In spring 2024, we will begin work at the intersection of Gray and McBride Streets. We are undergrounding overhead power lines. We will also be moving gas and fibre. The services sit under the intersection of McBride and Gray Streets, therefore the intersection will be affected for approximately eight months while the team works on this part of the project. The road will always have one traffic lane open, but this will move and change as the project progresses. There is minimal impact expected on SH6 during this work.

It's not until spring 2025 that the SH6/6A intersection work has any noticeable impact on state highway traffic, with work around the Frankton roundabout starting on SH6 in September-October 2025.

This ensures the traffic impact of Arterials is cleared away, while Frankton work can get started.

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 SH6/6A Frankton Intersection and Bus Hub Improvements project 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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