



Waitaki Bridges Replacement Project

NEWS UPDATE

September 2013



Piling work on Bridge 2 on the Kurow side of the Waitaki River

ON TRACK

Good progress has been made on building the new Waitaki Bridges on State Highway 82 linking Kurow and Hakataramea, since work started in early April 2013.

The new two-lane bridges being built by McConnell Dowell Constructors Ltd are scheduled to open in late 2014. The \$20.1 million bridges are part of the NZ Transport Agency's \$1 billion programme of investment in Canterbury's transport network for 2012/15.

State Highway 82 is an important freight and tourism route that the local community relies on to access services and to distribute of supplies to the surrounding rural community. Being built immediately downstream from the existing 132 year-old structures, the replacement bridges will provide a secure transport link across the Waitaki River for the Kurow and Hakataramea Valley communities.

Piling for Bridge 2 on the Kurow side of the river, which is the smaller of the two bridges, started in early May and was completed in August 2013. Installation of the bridge crossheads and abutments, structural steel and concrete decking is well advanced, as is with river protection work.

Driving of the seven piles for the second bridge on the Hakataramea side of the river, expected to get underway in September, is programmed for completion by mid-March 2014.

THE NEW BRIDGES WILL PROVIDE:

- a secure route along SH 82 between Kurow and Waimate,
- the ability to carry larger and heavier freight vehicles than the current bridges can,
- residents in the Hakataramea area with dependable access to essential services and employment in Kurow,
- an alternative route during emergencies that close SH 1 at the Waitaki Bridge,
- a lane separated from traffic to greatly improve safety for cyclists and pedestrians who use the bridge,
- protection for the critical link between Kurow and Hakataramea Valley that has existed since the current bridges opened in 1881.

The current bridges

The two current, single-lane wooden bridges spanning the Waitaki River on State highway 82 at Kurow have reached the end of their economic life.

The bridges have been a special part of the area's landscape for well over a century, with the Bridge 1 on the Hakataramea side of the river the longest remaining wooden 'Howe Truss Bridge' in the South Island. They will

be dismantled as their replacements are opened' starting with Bridge 2 on the Kurow side of the river, which is expected to open in the first quarter of 2014. An agreement with the New Zealand Historic Places Trust and local community will see a couple of spans dismantled from the current bridges displayed on the 'Kurow Island'.

SEPTEMBER 2013

Bridge 1 (Hakataramea)

- Piling commences with the Kurow Island side abutment of the bridge.
- Construction of the temporary trestle (construction only bridge) gets underway to the Hakataramea branch of the river.

Bridge 2 (Kurow)

- Forming and concreting the abutments and piers on top of the piles.
- Fabricated steel for the bridge superstructure arrives on site.

OCTOBER 2013 - MARCH 2014

Bridge 1 (Hakataramea)

- Piling work and installing the trestle across the river continues.

Bridge 2 (Kurow)

- Bridge steel erection and placement of precast concrete deck slabs.
- Construction of road formation to the bridge.
- Completion of the rock rip rap at both abutments.
- Construction of this bridge is expected to be completed in early 2014 along with the road construction and surfacing allowing the new bridge (Bridge 2) to open to traffic.
- Once the bridge opens to traffic, a start will be made on dismantling the existing historic bridge just upstream.



Work on Bridge 2 viewed from Kurow to Island.



Embankment fill for the approaches to Bridge 1 on the Hakataramea side of the Waitaki River.



Inspection work on one of the two columns required for Bridge 2 on the Kurow side of the Waitaki River.



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More information about this project can be found at: www.nzta.govt.nz/waitaki-bridges-replacement-project