

# 1

# Caversham Valley safety improvements

## PROJECT UPDATE

JANUARY 2015

A new year, a new focus and a new bridge at Lookout Point as this project moves steadily toward opening in June 2015.

This is a two stage project. Stage 1 completed in October 2012 involved the four-laning of the Caversham by-pass between King Edward Street over bridge and Barnes Drive. Work on Stage 2 from Barnes Drive to Lookout Point started in November 2012 and once finished mid-year, road users can look forward to improved traffic flows, increased safety, and reduced travel times, on SH 1 between Andersons Bay Road and Lookout Point in Dunedin.

## THE NEW RISELAW ROAD BRIDGE



A computer generated impression of new Riselaw Road bridge

This new bridge with 6.5 metres of clearance over the highway will be similar to the recently raised Goodall Street footbridge at Caversham, and the Old Brighton Rd bridge over the previous motorway at Fairfield. These clearances enable over-dimension loads to travel along the highway, rather through the residential and retail areas of Caversham.



How the traffic layout at Lookout Point traffic will look once the new Riselaw Road bridge is completed.

The new bridge allows drivers to safely cross the highway, or turn to and from it through safer left turn movements. Pedestrians and cyclists are catered for, with a shared 'looped' pathway linking South Road and Riselaw Road. The design of this pathway loop cycle affords cyclists with



The new Lookout Point pedestrian and cycle layout

an optimal gradient and least climb; and it is complemented with steps to enable pedestrians to take a shortened route. While Short St is permanently closed to motorists, pedestrians and cyclists will still be able to access Short Street from Mornington Road.

## WHEN WILL THE PROJECT BE FINISHED?

Construction is taking longer than planned, due to unexpected issues with soft soils, slippery layers over a hidden non-active fault-line and a cavity within the base sandstone bedrock. All these factors meant a complete change in the design approach, so construction could continue. While the construction works will become complete mid-year, final surfacing of the realigned highway may be held until the warmer spring months.



An inactive fault line that crossed the site for the northern abutment for the new Riselaw Road bridge.

## WHAT'S PLANNED FOR THE NEXT 3 MONTHS

**January 2015** Highway paving over Lookout Point, including a new left turn lane into Mornington Road.

**January - March 2015** Construction and completion of the southbound traffic lanes up Caversham Valley Road, along with the traffic median islands.

**Bridge works** Bridge piling will continue; including driving down large steel 'sleeves' through the upper soil/broken rock layers to solid the sandstone. With the column of soil removed, a smaller (1.2m diameter) pile will be placed through the sleeve and bored deeper into the sandstone layer. There will be three piles under the end abutments, with a further two piles beneath the central pier.

**Embankment works** In parallel with the piling work, the northern embankment wall linking the Riselaw Road bridge will be progressively built up. This needs to be done in layers, with a wire/mesh grid between the layers, to provide an anchor to tie back the steeply sloping front face.

**Landscaping** Lower down in Caversham Valley is largely done. The new central traffic median is being built over summer and landscaped in autumn.



Completed paving work on SH 1 in lower Caversham Valley



Piling work for the new Riselaw Road bridge



Rockfill being laid at the southern approach wall to the new Riselaw Road bridge



A survey marker placed in the new bridge embankment to allow the accurate monitoring of ground settlement at this site



Landscaping on an embankment uphill from Burnett Street

## TRAFFIC CHANGES

### Barnes Drive

Motorists are being alerted to traffic signals changes at Barnes Drive through the use of advance signals to that let them know a pending change to a red stop signal.

In a subtle change, motorists approaching from the south and wanting to turn right into Caversham, can now only make this turn if a green arrow is displayed (previously motorists could also make their turn by 'filtering' through gaps in the south bound traffic). Road user feedback about this change has seen further fine tuning of the signals to reduce the amount of time drivers wait for a turning arrow, during off-peak traffic periods.

### Short Street

Access from Short Street to the highway was permanently closed in July 2014, although not all motorists are aware of this change. In response, the temporary signage advising of this change will continue remain in place just now, and additional signage installed. For any motorists who continue to drive up Short St, a turning head has since been constructed.

## CONTACT AND FEEDBACK

For more information visit [www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/caversham-highway/](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/caversham-highway/)

A camera has been installed Lookout Point so you can view the construction progress and monitor traffic on the above website.

If you require any additional information please email [cavershamhighway@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:cavershamhighway@nzta.govt.nz)

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