

# 6

## 2. Choosing a preferred bridge alignment option



### How we selected a preferred bridge alignment option:

#### Step 1

In 2001, we identified eight potential options for the new Kawarau Falls Bridge over the Kawarau River. These options were comprehensively assessed. Four of the alignments, Option 6 and 7 – connecting at Boyd Road, Option 2 – a new bridge downstream connecting with Peninsula Road and Option 5 – relocating SH6 to Douglas Street and a connection further downstream, were eliminated due to visual obstruction, high land purchases and impacts on property owners, poor ground conditions posing construction risks, and negative impacts on the Queenstown airport.

#### Step 2

The four remaining options were further assessed in 2003 against a robust set of criteria including environmental, social, economic and technical. The public and stakeholders were asked to provide feedback and this contributed to the assessment process.

#### Step 3

Based on this assessment and feedback from the community, we selected Option 3 – close to the existing bridge – as the preferred alignment. Option 3 was selected because it:

- Represents value for money against our funding criteria
- Will be easier to construct as existing rocks above the water surface will provide good support for bridge piers
- The alignment avoids areas of road slumping and will be built on stable land
- Minimises the impact on the community and the existing bridge
- Was the preferred option of the community
- Does not require the purchase of any private property.

#### Public consultation feedback:

- Historic Places Trust supported options that did not use the existing bridge
- The public preferred Option 3