

# 8 New Beaumont Bridge



*A spectacular east to west aerial view of the new bridge.*

The new Beaumont Bridge on SH8 over the Mata-au/Clutha River has crossed the finish line, just two years after construction started on this highly anticipated \$32 million replacement for a nearby 136-year-old single lane bridge.

This 195-metre-long two-lane bridge on the main highway between Dunedin and Central Otago will safely connect people, places, and products for a thriving Otago.

The project's construction cost rose from the \$25 million original tender price to \$32 million over the two years of construction. Factors contributing to the increase included market and overseas supply chain delays, shipping delays affecting the supply and price of steel, and the need to increase the new bridge pile depth due to unexpected borehole ground conditions. Adding to the final cost was an asphaltic surface for the new bridge deck with better skid resistance for this frost prone location, providing better safety and longevity than a traditional asphalt surface.

Work completed over the last five months includes extensive landscaping and retaining walls below the new bridge, and paths under both sides of the bridge. These make biking and walking between the popular Clutha Gold Trail Cycle Trail and the local township both easy and interesting. An attractive rest area created on the eastern riverbank, between the old and new bridges, is already proving popular with travellers.



*Nestled between the new and old bridges on the eastern side of the river is a welcoming rest area for travellers.*



Distinctive iwi artwork on the eastern bridge abutment retaining walls.

## Bridge artwork with an intriguing story

This is a bridge that makes a powerful visual statement with sculptural, and artwork features on its barriers. These depict local iwi connections to this section of the Mata-au/Clutha River, and its story that goes back long before any bridges existed.

Designed after a waka huia - a container to hold precious items - offers protection to those who cross the new bridge. Glowing gold coloured steel panels, modelled after the bell-like flowers of the kowhai tree on the downstream bridge barrier, change appearance varying with sun movement and climatically and seasonally.

This story telling artwork shown below is a unique feature of the retaining walls below the bridge.

## Bridge benefits

- ✓ A modern two-lane bridge designed to meet current and future needs of both the local and wider Otago region.
- ✓ Increase resilience and accessibility on the main highway between Dunedin and Central Otago, an economic and social lifeline for local people, visitors to our region, farmers, and businesses.
- ✓ Ensure the safe and efficient movement of people and freight.
- ✓ Better serve the needs of the area's farm and forestry industries - both key drivers of economic growth in Otago.

[www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/beamont-bridge](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/beamont-bridge)

## A great show of support

People have been fascinated by this new bridge since construction started and was very evident when 2,000 people travelled from everywhere for a new bridge walkover event in July.

Shortly after the event, traffic moved from the old bridge on to the new one, to allow the completion of other important project work. Heading that list of jobs was converting the old bridge into a walking and cycling link to the popular Clutha Gold Cycle Trail.

Some of the huge crowd at a new bridge walkover event in July 2023.



## Bridge specifications

-  195 metres long.
-  Two traffic lanes.
-  A walking and cycling path separated from bridge traffic.
-  Meets current earthquake standards.
-  Formed by curved steel girders supported by four piers embedded into the river.
-  High strength steel beams provide a corrosion resistant surface to extend the life of the bridge.