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Environmental impacts



A new bridge across the Kawarau River will mean changes for the area, including the following aspects:

Landscape and visual

The proposed bridge will add a new structure to an area where an open, natural landscape is important. However, the new bridge will be located near to the existing Kawarau Falls Bridge, avoiding more significant parts of the Kawarau River. Landscaping will be used to enhance the bridge approaches and river banks.

Water quality

Bridge construction will require work in the river and on the river banks. Any construction in and around the river will be carefully planned and monitored to contain contaminants or sediment to ensure water quality standards are maintained. This will be managed through robust management plans and consent conditions.

Noise

Bridge construction is expected to take 18 months. During this time noise levels in the area may increase. However noise will be managed (for example through timing of the works or choosing quieter machinery) so that effects are kept to a minimum. Noise effects of the operation of the new bridge will also be assessed and managed with the appropriate road surfacing. The new bridge will eliminate the noise of vehicles stopping and starting for traffic signals, and the current noise from the wooden deck.