



Kawarau Falls Bridge Replacement Project

PROJECT UPDATE

JUNE 2016

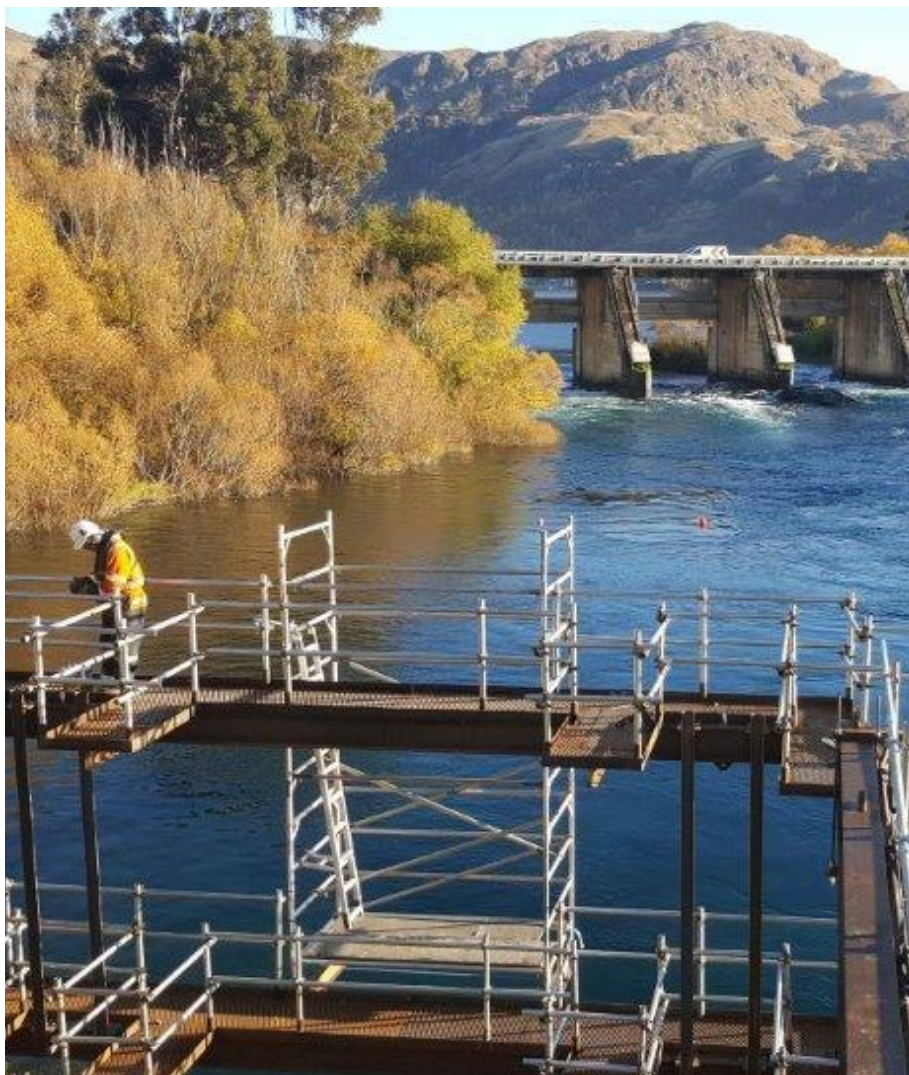
Work on the new two-lane Kawarau Falls Bridge on State Highway 6 near Queenstown is now in full swing despite facing a few challenges.

The biggest, was a small slip during recent tree clearance work on the northern embankment. It appears this slip may have been landfill dumped in the area a long time ago, that was being held in place by roots from the trees that were removed. McConnell Dowell, the bridge contractor is working on a solution to stabilise this area, with any further tree removal halted until this is put in place. Geotextile fabrics are being used to stabilise locations where trees have been taken out and to manage erosion.

This slip doesn't change plans to have the new two-lane Kawarau Falls Bridge open in the second half of 2017. The \$22M project is being delivered on behalf of the Government, as part of their Accelerated Regional Road Package announced in 2014.

The recent arrival of a large crawler crane on site signalled the start of work on building the southern abutment and piers that will support the new bridge. This part of the project involves vibrating the steel pile casings deep into the bedrock. Those living nearby have been made aware they may feel vibrations, while this work is carried out.

Over the coming weeks, a temporary trestle needed to build the new bridge from will start to edge its way out across the Kawarau River from the south bank. A large crawler crane will be slowly 'walked out' across the trestle as it's extended, with a smaller one due on site shortly to work on the southern abutment and Pier 1 of the new bridge.



The Cantilever platform assembled and installed at the southern trestle.

PLAN YOUR TRAVEL

With the new winter ski season nearly here, it's a good idea to allow more time for your ski field travel, especially if it involves driving over the existing single lane Kawarau Falls Bridge. You may like to consider catching a bus to the ski fields, or taking shared transport to reduce vehicle numbers on roads.

Highway traffic cameras will be operating from late June at five sites in Queenstown and Frankton. These sites include the existing single lane Kawarau Falls Bridge, the McBride Street pedestrian crossing lights on SH6 and the SH6/6A BP Roundabout. Images from these traffic information cameras can be viewed at www.nzta.govt.nz/traffic

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

- » To ensure the safety of everyone at all times, a 50km/h speed restriction is operating through the bridge construction site.
- » Watch for a lot more trucks at both ends of the bridge as they transport materials and equipment to the site.



Spotters inspecting the drilling rig in operation

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Each newsletter, we will publish an historical picture of the original bridge build.

Work on building the framing needed to pour the concrete for the existing bridge piers

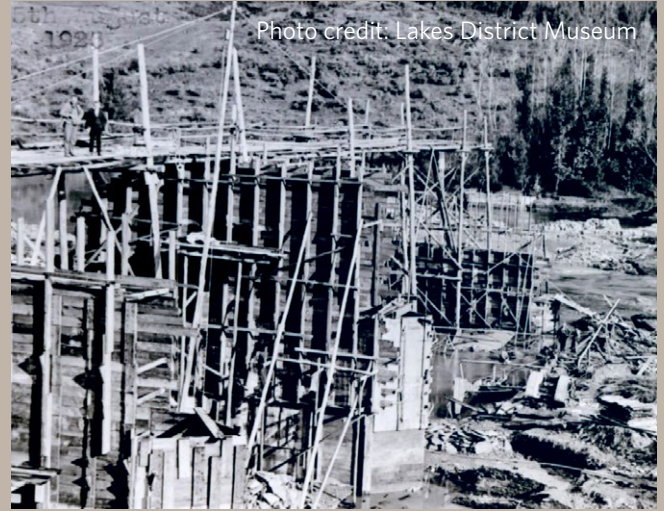


Photo credit: Lakes District Museum

What will the new bridge deliver?

- » More predictable journey times for bridge users.
- » Eliminate often lengthy traffic delays at the current bridge, especially on peak ski season days.
- » A stronger bridge built to withstand a once in every 2,500-year-earthquake.
- » Improved links to Queenstown International Airport, Frankton Flats and Queenstown.
- » The safer and more efficient movement of freight and people south of Queenstown, to key destinations including Milford Sound and Invercargill.

SAFETY INFORMATION

The public (including cyclists and pedestrians) can use the existing bridge while the new one is being built. For safety reasons, access to the construction site itself is restricted to authorised people only. Both McConnell Dowell, the bridge contractor and the NZ Transport Agency are committed to zero harm on the construction site for both workers and the public.

If you need to access to the new bridge site please check in first at the project office, 1a Robertson Street, Frankton.



PROJECT CONTACTS

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Keep up with progress at:
www.nzta.govt.nz/kawarau-falls

