



Kawarau Falls Bridge replacement project



We are now in the depths of winter and that means the busy Queenstown ski season is in full swing.

Traffic on the new two-lane Kawarau Falls Bridge is flowing smoothly during one of the busiest times of year for the area, and as a result both locals and visitors are enjoying more reliable travel times. There will be occasions where we need to work on the road, and stop/go controls or traffic lights are necessary to manage traffic. We will give nearby residents and bridge users as much notice as possible about when this work is going to happen.

WALKING AND CYCLING

Work to improve walking and cycling facilities on the single-lane Kawarau Falls heritage bridge is well underway.

This includes upgrading the deck and the handrails, and removing vehicle safety barriers, to make what will become a dedicated walking and cycling bridge more accessible. The heritage bridge is staying open to pedestrians and cyclists while this work is being carried out.

Once completed, it will connect to the Queenstown Trails Cycle Network on both sides of the Kawarau River.

A walking and cycling underpass is almost finished at the northern end of the new two-lane bridge. This links the path alongside State Highway 6 past Robertson Street to the new bridge, then runs under it to connect with Bridge Street.

On the southern riverbank, and due for completion shortly, is an attractive new boardwalk to take pedestrians south under the new bridge to connect with the historic bridge.

BRIDGE BENEFITS

- › Improved road network connections to Queenstown International Airport, Frankton Flats and Queenstown CBD.
- › Less traffic congestion especially during peak travel times.
- › Safer and more efficient movement of freight and people in the Frankton Flats area and south of Queenstown.
- › A new cycling and walking connection across the single lane heritage bridge.
- › A more resilient southern highway link into Queenstown.

OTHER WORK

A substantial retaining wall on the southern side of the new bridge is almost finished and, once that happens, a start can be made on landscaping. This includes removing the white protective coverings around the new bridge site. When replanting work begins in the warmer spring months, it marks an important step toward restoring the new bridge site back to its original condition, and has the added benefit of reducing water run-off in the area.



The kōrari stem close up

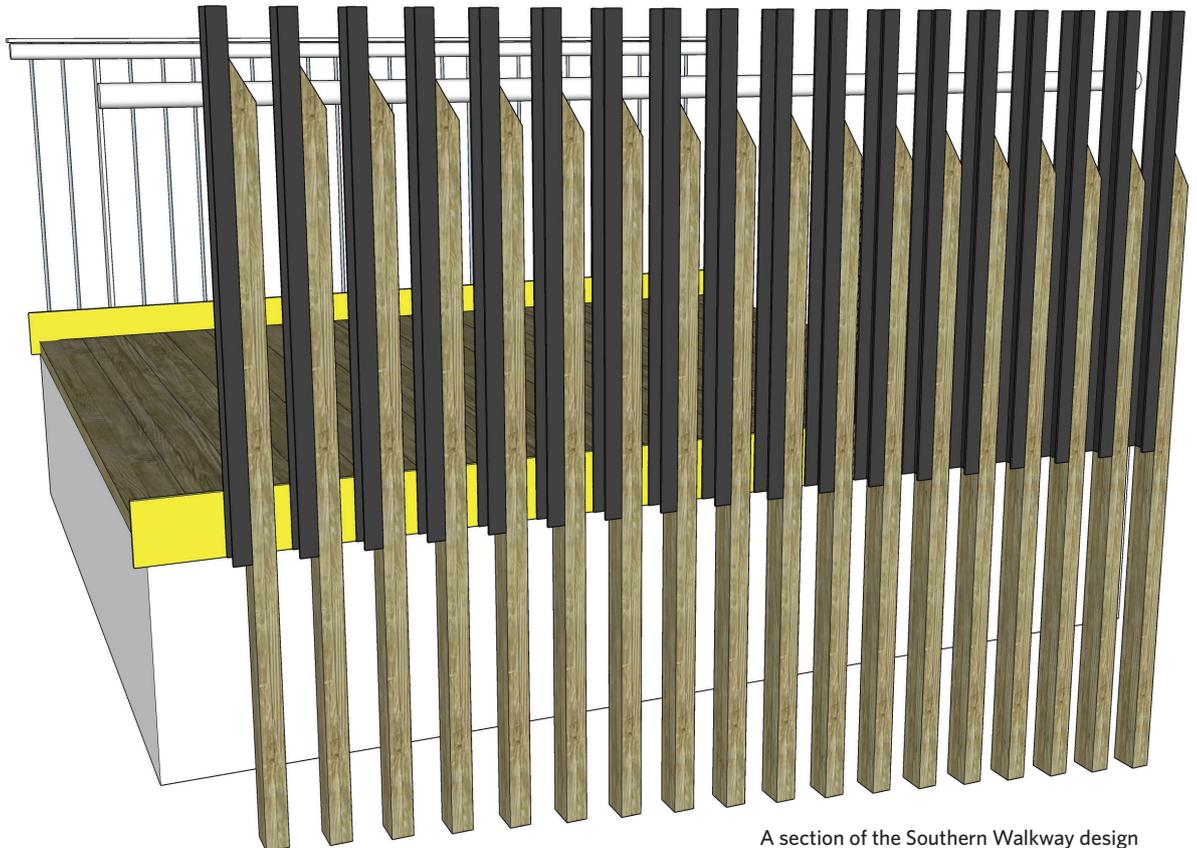
THE NEW SOUTHERN WALKWAY

McConnell Dowell Constructors, structural, geotechnical and landscaping consultants, Queenstown Lakes District Council and the NZ Transport Agency, all worked closely on the design of this modern two-lane bridge to deliver a functional yet great looking southern gateway into Queenstown.

The team also worked with agency Boffa Miskell to design the new Southern Walkway being constructed on the upstream side of the new bridge. The walkway, once complete, will provide safe access for pedestrians under State Highway 6. At present you will be able to see the concrete piles that will eventually support the structure under construction.

Māori built mōkihi vessels to get across O Te Rotu, Kawarau Falls on their journey to the West Coast for pounamu. The kōrari (flax flower stems) were bundled and lashed with tāura (flax rope), pulled taut to the rounded hull form, and burned to seal the pointed bow and stern.

The Southern Walkway form and balustrade of the new bridge references stories of mōkihi that travelled through this area.



A section of the Southern Walkway design



PROJECT CONTACTS

McConnell Dowell **0508 KAWARAU (0508 529 2728)** or
 Phil Dowsett NZ Transport Agency Project Manager phil.dowsett@nzta.govt.nz
 Keep up with progress at: www.nzta.govt.nz/kawarau-falls