



1 Aerial photo of the new bridges and island looking South East. 2 New bridge structures being constructed alongside the old 3 New bridge number 1 - upstream view looking South West

Waitaki River Bridges Replacement

Project Location: Kurow, Oamaru

AECOM for NZ Transport Agency

Disciplines: Highway and structural



The \$20.1 million Waitaki Bridges Replacement project provides a vital link between communities, while exemplifying excellence in design and construction, innovation and superb community engagement.

Safeguarding the connection between the Kurow and Hakataramea townships in Canterbury's Waitaki Valley, the design and construction of the two new bridges provides an important tourist and freight route from the coast to the McKenzie Basin.

The new twin double-lane bridges, one 206m and the other 92m in length, built on State Highway 82, replaced two existing 133-year-old single-lane timber bridge structures that had reached the end of their functional lives.

URS (now AECOM) was commissioned as lead designer for McConnell Dowell Constructors, responsible for the design of both bridges and their approaches, forming part of the NZ Transport Agency's \$1 billion programme of investment in the Canterbury region.

Delivered through an Early Contractor Involvement (ECI) model, the innovative and economically designed bridges structures are constructed of weathering steel and concrete, giving them a 100 year life span. With two lanes of traffic and a barrier separated walkway for pedestrians and cyclists, they significantly improve public safety, whilst also offering increased the capacity for over-sized machinery and freight vehicles.

Aesthetically, the new bridges reflect the unspoiled, natural beauty and heritage of the Waitaki Valley and are the first road bridges of their type in the South Island. They are the creation of a legacy that respects the past and inspires the future.

Community engagement was a primary focus from the start of the project. Due to their archaeological and historical significance, Heritage New Zealand and many locals were keen that a legacy remained; to respect the past and inspire the future, two sections of the old bridge were erected on Kurow Island to preserve tangible evidence for generations to come.

Judging & Copyright Statement

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