

Changes are coming to Queenstown's busiest intersection



Indicative visualisation of the completed SH6/6A Frankton intersection.

Twenty months ago, we started building more than a road - we began building resilience above and below the ground. This Road of Regional Significance project is driving change.

We've relocated and upgraded critical services including stormwater, power, wastewater, gas and communications. Progress has also been made excavating, rebuilding and expanding large areas of highway and shoulder, giving us options to move traffic lanes during upcoming construction sequences.

We're paving the way for a stronger, smarter network that will serve people, protect infrastructure and future proof our region.

In 2026, we'll continue building the bigger, better intersection, with the extra space needed for more traffic lanes, new dedicated bus lanes, and the upgraded signalised intersection. The design includes safer, more convenient connections for people walking and cycling.

These changes are essential to support increased traffic, improve public transport, and make the area safer and more accessible for everyone who uses it.

Work completed in 2025

Our teams have been active on many fronts. Work was planned around Otago's seasons, with excavation of trenches for utilities and road rebuilding over winter so that asphaltting could begin in spring. Careful planning and integration with utility and transport operators and local stakeholders - from Otago Regional Council to Queenstown Airport and the Recreation Centre - has been key.

Queenstown package progress snapshot

December 2025

Electricity cabling



6,429m out of 6,464m completed
(that's low and high voltage combined)

Gas and other ducting



3,759m out of 5,234m of ducting laid

Water pipes



1,573m out of 2,435m of stormwater pipes laid

54m out of 165m of wastewater pipes laid

509m out of 634m of fresh water pipes laid

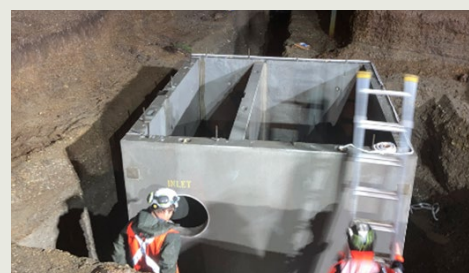
Essential services and utilities upgraded

A major milestone this year has been extending the stormwater network, laying pipe along SH6 Kawarau Road, crossing to Ross Street, and linking to the lake side to protect homes, businesses, and our environment.

It was a mammoth coordination task to install and connect the new stormwater pipes (plus power ducting for traffic and Bus Hub signals, and wastewater pipes) across SH6 Kawarau Road over several nights. The connections required six large trenches to be cut across the traffic lanes. We excavated a huge pit for the new 14 tonne, 3m-wide and 2.1m-high specialised stormwater filter at Ross Street and manoeuvred a 40m-long wastewater pipe into position using two diggers moving in tandem.

As a result of the upgrade, stormwater and highway runoff is captured and conveyed to the large treatment chamber on the corner of Ross Street. Here, the specialised filter provides a much higher level of contaminant removal than an ordinary catchpit. This greatly improves the quality of the water before it enters Lake Whakatipu. In future, the long stormwater swales near the new SH6/6A intersection will be planted with native vegetation and inlaid with gravel and stones for additional natural filtration.

We needed to do this work at night as we're unable to close the highway during the day, but it requires planning, coordination and cooperation across many agencies.



The story of stormwater



The above graphic was developed for public engagement. It shows how large volume stormwater pipes (like those shown left) were laid in trenches alongside SH6 Kaurau Road to capture, convey, filter and discharge the treated stormwater.



Gray Street has new kerb and channelling, footpaths, road and streetlights, with undergrounded power and new fibre cable installation.

Gray-McBride: This year saw the full rebuild of Gray Street and the Gray-McBride intersection. We also undergrounded powerlines while upgrading and moving other utilities. Thanks for bearing with us while Gray Street was closed to through traffic, it's a balance to try and maintain access to Frankton Village with getting this necessary work completed.

Frankton Road: We've progressively trenched at the eastern end of SH6A Frankton Road to locate and deactivate utility lines buried under driveways, footpaths and grass verges, and to upgrade streetlights. At the same time, we replaced the concrete pedestrian refuge and islands with an interim version, keeping traffic lanes clearly separated while providing safe crossing for pedestrians.

SH6/Howards Drive: We recently carried out early works at the intersection of Howards Drive and SH6 Frankton-Ladies Mile Highway, ready for future development in this area. Wastewater, power and irrigation services for rural properties and golf courses were relocated away from the intersection, work which needed to happen before winter as we cannot shut down power when the ski fields are operating.

Work completed in 2025 continued

SH6 Kawarau Road

As part of the changed layout on the golf course corner, we moved the Frankton Golf Centre entry further along SH6 Kawarau Road for safer and easier access. With a new sealed and landscaped driveway and carpark, it's looking sharp.

Thanks to bus passengers for their patience while we temporarily shifted the bus stop to build the new permanent stops. These have recently opened with six new shelters and extra bike parking, and the pedestrian crossing in its permanent position by the Golf Centre entry.

Across the road, work started on the new southern end of the Frankton Bus Hub. McBride Street properties that back onto SH6 Kawarau Road have a brand-new fence following our installation of services along the boundary, and the shared path has been opened to Ross Street, which has been rebuilt following significant underground work.

With bus use growing in Queenstown, expanded facilities are needed.



SH6 Frankton-Ladies Mile Highway

Despite spring storms delaying the start of sealing season, steady winter preparation paid off and we've made strong progress since.



Pedestrians and cyclists welcomed the opening of the new wide shared path from Frankton Golf Centre through to facilities on Joe O'Connell Drive and beyond. The entry and left-turn lane into Joe O'Connell Drive has been formed, and opposite, the Hansen Road entry has been restored and the new link road constructed ready for when the intersection layout is changed.

In late 2025, we moved into a new phase, asphaltting a large section of highway at the Frankton Golf Centre corner of the SH6/6A intersection. In preparation for this, we put concrete blocks and framing in place to protect the historic drystone-stacked Frankton Cemetery Wall. Additional strengthening was needed last month when the eastern end of the front wall was found to be hollow.

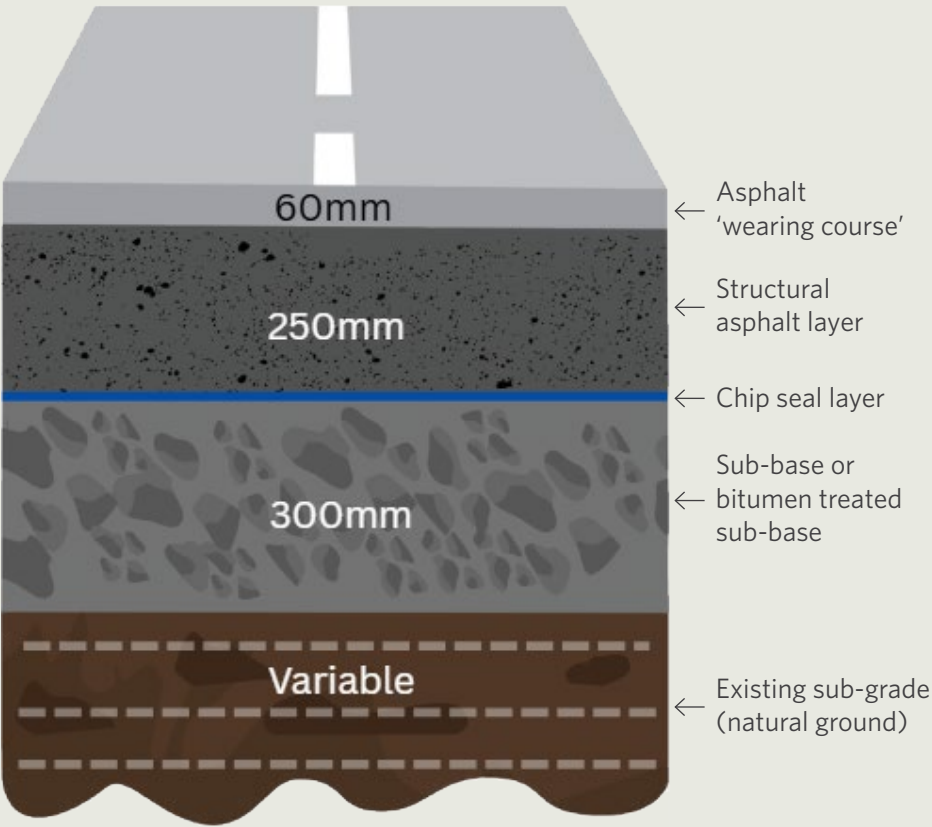
The story behind sealing

While it may look like people could start driving on the sealed areas today, there's actually a lot more to do before it's strong enough for Frankton's traffic volumes.

The structural asphalt at the new intersection has been engineered to withstand the weight of the heaviest truck axles and accommodate the highest traffic volumes of any intersection south of Christchurch. To achieve this, each layer of the 'pavement' has a specific purpose, composition and thickness.

As each layer is put down, our team carries out a range of quality checks, and only then is the next layer able to be applied. The final layer is at the correct height to meet the new concrete kerb and channel sections that we built over winter.

Cross section of structural asphalt at the new SH6/6A intersection



Supporting our community

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This work happens in partnership with the people around us. The understanding and patience of local businesses, organisations, and the wider community makes it possible. Whenever we can, we look for ways to give back, including:

- donating logs and mulch from tree-felling to community organisations such as Lions Club, Whakatipu Rowing Club and Whakatipu Reforestation Trust for fundraising and revegetation initiatives
- providing lighting towers to Bush Creek Ice Skating to support their successful night-skate events at Arrowtown
- donating pipes and offcuts to the Southern Trails Trust for drainage along the new section of the Lake Roxburgh Trail
- running construction-related activities at the Queenstown Events Centre school holiday programme and sharing children's artwork on site fencing.

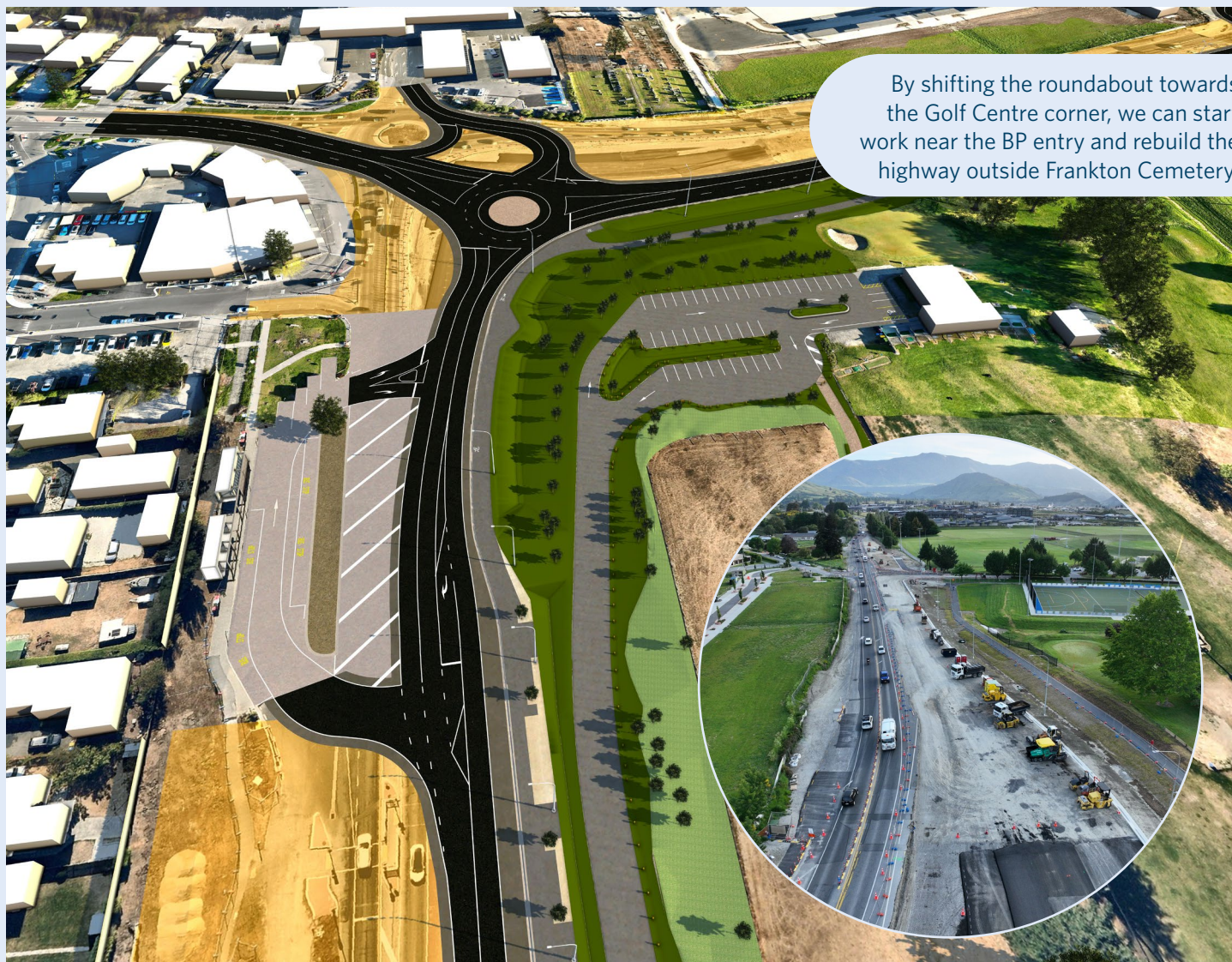


The Kā Huanui a Tāhuna team is pleased to support the community we're part of.



Looking ahead in 2026

We're preparing for a major phase of construction next year - improvements that will future-proof our network and meet the needs of a growing population.



By shifting the roundabout towards the Golf Centre corner, we can start work near the BP entry and rebuild the highway outside Frankton Cemetery.

Our focus begins with completing the asphaltting on the southern side of SH6 Frankton-Ladies Mile Highway through to Joe O'Connell Drive (the area shown in the inlaid image). We'll then build the new interim roundabout, mark lanes, and shift traffic over to this area so we can start rebuilding the northern side of the highway, from BP along to Hansen Road.

This change will also shift SH6 Kawarau Road traffic towards the Golf Centre, creating space to start excavation and rebuilding outside Frankton Village. We'll be in touch with tenants and residents ahead of any parking or access changes. At the same time, work continues along SH6 Kawarau Road, building the new southern end of the Bus Hub and adjusting traffic lanes as needed along the stretch to Ross Street.

The roundabout shift - in more detail

Around March, you'll notice the first big change at the SH6/6A intersection. On the newly asphalted area near Frankton Golf Centre, we'll build a temporary roundabout with reconfigured approaches and traffic lanes. This design keeps two lanes moving through the intersection and maintains access to BP, Terrace Junction, and Frankton Village - all while we rebuild the northern side of the highway.

It's no simple feat to keep this vital intersection open, and traffic moving while this work is underway. Achieving the upgrade to a signalised intersection with more traffic lanes, a bigger Bus Hub and safer connections for people walking and cycling will mean multiple changes in road layout during construction. We understand this is disruptive work and will mean increased travel times during this period - we'll be working hard to keep the traffic flowing.

Digital messaging for locals and visitors



With the more impactful construction beginning next year, our digital messaging campaign is now in full force. Over summer we'll continue to encourage locals to sign up for our newsletter and work notices to stay informed, plan ahead and travel smarter.

The digital campaign then shifts focus to tourists ahead of the busy winter season, alerting them to the major works nearby and encouraging them to allow extra time when travelling to or from the airport or Frankton.

We'll also work closely with tourism operators and accommodation providers to make sure visitors have the right information about the works, where and when they need it.

The digital advertising campaign alerts people to major roadworks at the BP roundabout. By signing up for our newsletter you can be prepared for what's ahead.

Bigger and better Bus Hub

In the first part of 2026 we'll continue building the new southern end of the Bus Hub, which features many user-friendly elements including more, larger shelters, extra bike parks and live bus tracking.

In about May the 'big swap' will happen, when the southern end becomes operational for buses and passengers and work begins to upgrade the northern end. Ahead of the swap, we'll work with Otago Regional Council and Orbus to make sure bus users get all the information they need.

And finally... thank you

We know that roadworks can be a challenging environment to drive through, and delays can be frustrating. We encourage everyone to take extra care, allow more time to get to places (particularly the airport, or appointments), be patient with other drivers and be kind to our staff. It will get better, but it will take time.

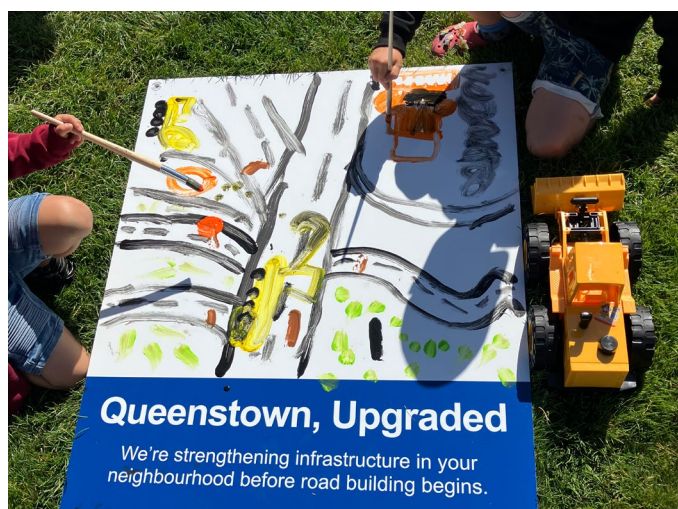
**Thanks for
your patience while
we're making the
intersection easier
and safer for
everyone.**



Keep up to date

In 2026, we'll continue to keep you informed along the way:

- NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi - Otago and Southland Facebook page.
- NZTA website www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/queenstown-package or use the QR code.
- Leaflet drops in the immediate area.
- The Kā Huanui a Tāhuna e-newsletter, depending on the timing.
- QLDC Facebook page for local road updates.
- You may also see us out in the community door knocking, at the Remarkables Market on 7 and 14 February 2026, or come and meet us at Life's a Grind Espresso Frankton during advertised times.



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Sign up to our regular newsletter at www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/queenstown-package

If you'd like to receive upcoming work notices for this project, please email info@wtpa.co.nz with work notice in the subject line.

Get in touch

Email info@wtpa.co.nz
phone 0800 482 684

Or write to us at:

NZ Transport Agency
Queenstown Package
Level 2, AA Centre
450 Moray Place, Dunedin