

Week of 5th March 2018

Work continues on the bridge approaches this week. First up, we will pour the remaining concrete sections of the bridge: (1) the second stage of the headstocks which stop the beams moving lengthwise; and (2) the wingwalls which run back parallel to the road from the headstocks.

Once this concreting is done we will focus on the remaining bridge abutment works and place the last layers of Stone Strong blocks. After that, we will start on the stormwater works next to the abutments.

We have also begun work on the new retaining wall alongside Newmarket Park. This retaining wall will form the edge of the new section Laxon Terrace up the the bridge. We are starting at the northern end of the project and will work our way towards the site entrance on Laxon Terrace.

There will be some changes to this site entrance and the pedestrian path into the park. We are sorting out the construction sequence in this area now with the hope that we can maintain access to the park at all times. If we can't avoid closing the access from Laxon Terrace, it will only be for a short time, and we will ensure we give plenty of warning.

Next rail shutdown

There will be another rail shutdown this weekend (10/11th March) for which we are doing preparatory work now. The main focus of the weekend is to lock the eight beams together (called "post-tensioning") so they act as a single unit, or "bridge deck".

There are five holes in the sides of the bridge beams (see four of them in the photo below). These holes run right through the eight bridge beams. A set of seven high tensile steel strands (called a "tendon") will be pulled through each of the holes. Large steel anchor heads are placed over the steel strands, and hydraulic jack in used to "pull" these wires taut.

Each tendon has about 18 tonnes (18kN) of tension applied, and is then locked off to secure it in place. Once all five tendons have been tensioned, the area surrounding the tendon is grouted up to protect the steel over the lifetime of the bridge. This work will be completed during Saturday and Sunday this weekend. Unfortunately, access to the holes in the side of bridge needs to be done from the railway track level using the elevated work platforms – sorry, there is going to be more of the "beeping" noise this weekend for the residents of 9 Cowie

Street and others within earshot - it is a health and safety matter and we can't turn it off.

We will also use the rail shutdown to backfill the lower areas of the Western Abutment. Material will be transported from the eastern side of the project, across the temporary rail crossing and up the western access road. When this is done we will start to take out this temporary road - the remainder will be removed at Easter. This work will involve excavators, trucks and compaction equipment.

In the coming week, the planned works include:

Monday 5th–Sunday 11th

COWIE STREET

- Reinforcing Steel delivery;
- Concrete trucks and pumps;
- Hiab deliveries of materials.

SARAWIA STREET & LAXON TERRACE

- Spoil removal;
- Aggregate delivery;
- Reinforcing steel delivery;
- Concrete trucks and pumps;
- Stone Strong block deliveries towards the end of the week.

