

6 July 2023

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

REF: OIA-12933

Dear [REDACTED]

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 14 May 2023 to Queenstown Lakes District Council requesting information regarding the A7 Trail, Jacks Point to Frankton Track. Your request was transferred to Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency on 19 June 2023 to be provided under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), as this information more closely relates to our functions.

A. In relation to this track what is the current status of:

1. Geotech work.

Initial Geotech work undertaken for a proposed new bridge across the Kawarau River has been completed and this has highlighted very challenging ground conditions which will likely make it cost prohibitive to build in the original location. The team has been tasked with identifying alternative routes that will head towards the existing Kawarau Bridges enabling a crossing of the river. We cannot confirm the specific location of this route to the bridges as we are still undertaking due diligence which includes safety, operational and construction assessments.

2. Design.

Waka Kotahi have undertaken some preliminary concept designs as part of our optioneering process. Once the route location is confirmed and approved this will be taken through to detailed design in preparation for construction contracts to be let. This will be subject to sufficient funds being available/approved. It is important to note that funding is not allocated for this route alone but for the wider network and as such, this forms only one part of an overall budget allocation.

3. Landowner engagement.

Waka Kotahi continues to have regular meetings with landowners, most recently on 20 June 2023, to discuss the latest proposed route options. These meetings have been very positive.

4. Land acquisition.

No land acquisition has taken place yet. However, all landowners for this A7 route are aware of our requirements and are updated regularly. Once a final route location has been finalised, we will then formalise the process. Recent negotiations with key landowners have been positive.

B. What route has been settled upon?

C. If no route has been settled upon, what steps are outstanding to settle upon a preferred route?

Waka Kotahi had meetings in early May with key partners and stakeholders, where alternative routes that will provide access to both Queenstown and Frankton were discussed. These ideas are now going through a proofing process. Please refer to my response above as to what the status of geotechnical work and design is.

D. If a preferred route has been settled upon:

a) What is the delay in it's implementation/construction?

b) Who or what persons are responsible for the delay?

c) What steps are being undertaken to resolve these above matters?

d) What is the timeframe for these matters to be resolved?

As noted above, a preferred route has not yet been confirmed.

In line with Waka Kotahi policy, this response will soon be published on our website, with personal information removed.

If you would like to discuss this reply with Waka Kotahi, please contact Brad Cabell, Project Director, by email to brad.cabell@nzta.govt.nz

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R Osborne', on a light grey background.

Richard Osborne

Acting National Manager System Design