

New Bridgewater Bridge Project FAQs – Brighton Council

Q. What is the announcement that has been made?

Construction company McConnell Dowell has been chosen as the contractor to build the new Bridgewater Bridge and has entered into an Early Activities Agreement with the Tasmanian Government ahead of construction starting in mid-2022.

Q. What is the chosen design for the new Bridgewater Bridge?

The new Bridgewater Bridge will be a four-lane bridge built downstream of the existing bridge. There will be new interchanges at Granton and Bridgewater, a safe shared path for cyclists and pedestrians and boats will be able to travel under the bridge. Rail is not included in the design.

Q. How does McConnell Dowell's design differ from the reference design?

McConnell Dowell's design will see a standalone four-lane bridge built downstream of the existing bridge, rather than re-using the causeway. The design includes a shared path on the upstream side of the bridge, allowing for better connections into the local network at each end of the bridge.

Bridgewater

At Bridgewater, the design includes a ramp that will travel from Boyer Road, under the Midland Highway and onto the new bridge for traffic wanting to travel south. This will remove the need for traffic to travel back to the East Derwent Highway roundabout and turnaround before travelling south. In addition, the reconstruction of Old Main Road will form a key link between Boyer Road and the Midland Highway.

Shared pathway connectivity will provide pedestrians and cyclists access from the Bridgewater township to the eastern residential and foreshore areas, as well as the new bridge.

Granton

At Granton, the reference design showed a roundabout at the intersection of Brooker Highway and Black Snake Road. This will be removed, allowing traffic to flow freely from the Brooker Highway onto the Lyell Highway towards New Norfolk. For traffic travelling from the Lyell Highway onto the Brooker Highway, a new roundabout will connect the Black Snake Road underpass, and a dedicated slip lane will allow traffic from the Lyell Highway to flow uninterrupted onto the Brooker Highway.

Q. How many jobs will the project create?

The project will support more than 830 direct and indirect jobs.

More than 200 new jobs will be created for Tasmanians with 25 per cent of those jobs to be recruited from Brighton, Derwent Valley and Glenorchy council areas.

Q. Why isn't a Tasmanian company delivering the project?

Projects of this size and scale are very rarely undertaken in Tasmania, and the State has not delivered a major bridge project since the 1980s. Because of this, no Tasmanian construction companies were eligible to submit proposals to deliver the project.

There will be many opportunities for local businesses and suppliers to be involved in the project, which will help to bring local knowledge and expertise.

Q. Will there be opportunities for Tasmanian companies and employees to work on the project?

During the Early Contractor Involvement (ECI) process, the tenderers were encouraged to use local businesses and suppliers where possible, and they were required to develop a Tasmanian Industry Participation Plan (TIPP) as part of their tender submission.

The contractor's approach to using local subcontractors means that Tasmanian companies and organisations will be able to benefit from things like employment, skill acquisition and other legacy benefits beyond construction.

Q. How that a contractor has been appointed, what are the next steps in the project?

The Early Activities phase of the project will see the contractor undertake detailed design work, design specific site investigations and broader community consultation on the chosen design. This will be followed by the award of a Design and Construct contract in mid-2022, after the receipt of a Major Project planning permit.

Q. Will the existing Bridgewater Bridge be removed?

The existing Bridgewater Bridge was built in 1946 and is the fourth bridge at this site.

Because of the poor condition and growing cost of maintaining the existing bridge, the project team is seeking approval as part of the project to remove it once it's no longer needed even though its removal isn't required to build the new bridge.

Many people have a strong connection to the bridge so we'll be working with the community and the Tasmanian Heritage Council to look at how we can recognise and promote the heritage values of the river crossing and its previous four bridges.

The causeway won't be removed.

Q. How will traffic and residents in Bridgewater be impacted during construction?

Building a new Bridgewater Bridge is one of the largest projects in Tasmania's history. As with any major construction project, there will be disruptions to the local community and the travelling public.

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The project team will be working closely with the contractor and the community in the lead up to the start of construction to manage impacts and make sure that disruptions are minimal.

Q. Will there be more community engagement?

Involving the community is an important part of the project. Before construction starts, we will be talking to the community about the chosen design and seeking further feedback.

Q. Will there be opportunities for more public open space in Bridgewater?

The project will provide for more convenient public access and a range of opportunities for the enhanced use of the Bridgewater foreshore and other parts of the Bridgewater area. At the completion of the project, it is expected that there will be areas of publicly owned land that are surplus to the road casement on both the northern and southern shores that may become available for development as open space. In the lead up to construction starting, the project team will continue discussions with Brighton Council and other key stakeholders and will undertake further consultation with the community about the future use of the area.