



December 2023

Hillside Redevelopment Project Newsletter

Hillside Workshops in South Dunedin are currently undergoing a major reconstruction, giving a new lease of life to a site that has an important place in NZ's rail heritage.

The new mechanical workshop will be used for the domestic assembly of new

wagons, along with the maintenance, repair and overhaul of locomotives and wagons, supporting our mainland operations.

Network and mechanical engineers based at KiwiRail's current Strathallen and Cumberland Street sites will also

move into new staff facilities at Hillside. More than 100 staff will be working at the facility once it is fully open.

This project is being funded with \$105 million of Government investment.

Construction update

Construction at Hillside Workshops is on track and the full facility is expected to open mid-2024. We plan to open part of the facility earlier to allow wagon assembly to commence early next year.



Interior of mechanical building (photo courtesy of Otago Daily Times).



The oldest building onsite, known as the machine shop and built around the 1870s, has been strengthened and repurposed.

Work is progressing on the mechanical and staff office buildings at Hillside. The office façade is nearing completion and concrete has been poured on the workshop floor slabs. In the rail yard, the beams and cabs for the new traverser have arrived on site and 13 of the 14 track turnouts have been installed.

The traverser is a sideways-moving platform that transfers trains across rail sets, enabling rolling stock to enter and exit different bays in the workshop. New Zealand firm JJ Nivens is building the traverser and it is being brought to Hillside in sections.

We are committed to environmental sustainability and are recycling more than 90% of the demolished materials from Hillside to reduce the volume of new materials required. In particular, all of the concrete structures have been demolished, broken up and crushed. The crushed concrete is being used in the new formation buildup of the rail yard.



The traverser beams and cab have arrived on site, painted Otago blue and gold colours.

Cutting trips to landfill

We have removed 24 buildings on site that had reached the end of their useful life. A major focus during the demolition works was to avoid sending waste materials to landfill.

To help achieve this, concrete was crushed and recycled on site where possible, steel was taken to a local scrap merchant for recycling and sale, and some native timber was separated out and recycled.



We recycled:

- **30** tonnes of native timber
 - **2965** tonnes of metal
 - **8280** tonnes of concrete
- 91%** of all waste by weight was diverted from landfill



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Career opportunities

We've got lots of great roles available for the mechanically minded in Dunedin.

Around 45 jobs are being created by the wagon assembly operation and a dozen Dunedin based staff have already

been hired into these roles.

We're offering a great work-life balance and the opportunity to be part of the revitalised Hillside Workshops. Find out more on KiwiRail's careers website: careers.kiwirail.co.nz

Heritage buildings

The oldest building at Hillside, known as the machine shop, has been earthquake strengthened and is being used for inventory storage. As a timber building, it was more straightforward to reinforce to meet seismic safety standards

compared to some of the other old buildings. We are in discussions with the Southern Heritage Trust and associated parties about the future use of the 1920's manager's building.



A new mural is brightening up Andersons Bay Road in South Dunedin.



Artists Guy Howard-Smith and James Bellaney at work on the mural.

Rail bridge mural

A new transport themed mural is brightening the underside of Bridge 228 across Andersons Bay Road in South Dunedin. Artists Guy Howard-Smith and James Bellaney say the artwork symbolises the "three waves of migration to South Dunedin" and features a waka, a ship and a plane.

KiwiRail sponsored the mural which is part of the South Dunedin Street Art Trail.

What can our neighbours expect?

Our construction partners, Calder Stewart, are busy on site. Construction activity will continue into 2024. Looking ahead, there will be further minor traffic disruption on Hillside Road at times as this redevelopment work is carried out.



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Thank you for your patience while we carry out this important work, which will rejuvenate this site.

