



Hillside Redevelopment Project Newsletter

July 2022

Hillside workshops update

Hillside's redevelopment has reached a significant milestone with Otago-based construction firm Calder Stewart recently being awarded the contract to build the new facilities after a robust tender process.

It's a pleasure to welcome Calder Stewart aboard.

Demolition across the site is continuing, with construction of the new workshop/wagon assembly building expected to begin later this year.

Just like cars and trucks, locomotives, rail wagons and carriages must be maintained and it's workshops like the one at Hillside that make that possible.

In previous years rail wagons have been imported from manufacturers overseas, but with Government support, we will also be assembling around 1,500 new wagons at the site, creating skilled jobs.

Hillside has long played an important role in Dunedin's engineering sector. Once the revitalisation project is complete, Hillside will once again be a bustling place with more than 170 KiwiRail people working on site.

As one of only two heavy rail engineering workshops in the South Island (the other is Waltham in Christchurch), the new Hillside will help ensure the resilience of "main land" operations.



Demolition and construction

Demolition and construction work at Hillside will take place at the same time, in different parts of the site.

South Island-based company Taggart is making solid progress removing old buildings, with the first phase (removing the main, large workshop building) complete, and the second phase (other buildings on the site) well underway.

This work, including the continued demolition of foundations and excavation of contaminated soil, is expected to be ongoing until early 2023.

In the coming months the Heavy Lift Workshop and the foundry, which are both on Hillside Road, will be demolished.

Now Calder Stewart has been appointed, construction will get underway in the coming months:

- Construction will begin on the new workshop/wagon assembly building, which will sit where the main, large workshop once did.
- It will be followed with the build of Hillside's adjoining office block, and buildings for KiwiRail's Network Services (track/infrastructure) teams who will be based at the site.
- Civil works will also be undertaken at Hillside as we re-lay rail lines within the site.

Earlier this year we began preparing the new workshop/wagon assembly building footprint and piling is expected to be underway before the end of the year.

Construction will continue to pick up pace, with the aim for the new Hillside to begin operating from late 2023/early 2024.



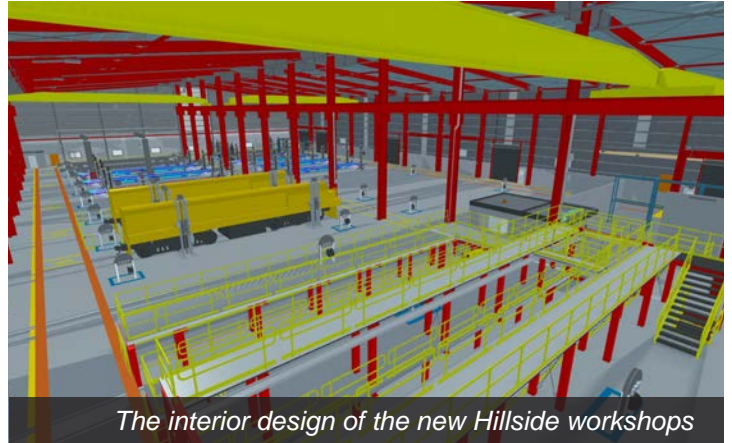
Inside an empty workshop



Old tracks being removed



Design for the exterior of the new Hillside workshops



The interior design of the new Hillside workshops

Mixed emotions as mechanical team temporarily move from Hillside

Just before Easter Hillside's Rolling Stock Asset Services team moved from their workshop to KiwiRail's Cumberland Street site.

Mechanical Engineer Dave Barclay first started at Hillside in 1976. "There were a lot of mixed emotions seeing the old building going, and all the old gear we've used for years," Dave said. "But people are looking forward to the future. We've been bringing the apprentices, who are still in the early part of their careers, up to speed on the history of this place, what it means, and what it will mean going forward for them".

Hillside Manager Peter O'Neill said there was a bit of sadness at leaving the workshop but they had to be focussed on the work ahead.

"It felt like a shame, seeing the workshop completely empty, but we've got to get on with the new challenges ahead of us. We're all working at Cumberland Street while Hillside is being rebuilt, and we've got to make that productive and make sure we can deliver there.

"When we go back to Hillside it will be a new environment and a much better place to work. It's going to be awesome. But there will be challenges – fitting it out and doing things a little differently. And we really want to take care of the place, so two years in it still looks like it will when new."

What can our neighbours expect over the coming months?

As demolition continues in the months ahead, some noise, vibrations and dust can be expected. We'll do our best to minimise it, with controlled demolition activities happening during day light hours, and dust suppression cannons and sprinklers in use.

Over the next few months we'll be focussed on preparing for construction, with Calder Stewart bringing equipment to site

and KiwiRail bringing in new rail, which should not result in much disruption to the local community.

Traffic management on Hillside Road will still be needed at times, and the footpath and road will be affected. Wherever we can we aim to do as much work as possible during the day. However, due to the nature and scale of these works, at times we may need to work overnight or on the weekend.

Sign up for Hillside future work email notifications and to receive our newsletter by emailing us at contactus@kiwirail.co.nz

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