



May 2023

Hillside Redevelopment Project Newsletter

Just like cars and trucks, locomotives, rail wagons and carriages need to be maintained and it's workshops like KiwiRail's one at Hillside where that happens.

The workshops are currently undergoing a major

redevelopment, giving a new lease of life to a site that has played an important role in New Zealand's rail heritage so it can continue to play an important role supporting KiwiRail's mainland operations.

Construction update

The new mechanical workshop is starting to take shape on site as the steel structural frames go up and preparation begins for the roof. Work continues on foundations for the building, and we have recently completed piling for the new office building. The new offices will be shared by KiwiRail's mechanical staff and infrastructure teams who will move from their existing premises on Strathallan Street.

The new workshop will be used for the domestic assembly of new wagons, along with maintenance, repair and overhaul of locomotives and wagons. We are preparing for wagon assembly and working through the processes and logistics of the new operation. In April, prototype wagons decks arrived on site and we are using these to plan the wagon assembly process in detail.

We are also keeping the oldest building on site, the large timber framed structure which dates back

to the 1870s. We're earthquake strengthening the historic building, which will be used as a storehouse for wagon components and other inventory.

The layout of the rail yard that forms part of the Hillside complex is also under redevelopment. Ground works have started, which include construction of 14 new track turnouts. The turnouts allow locomotives to switch between rail lines in the yard.

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Steel framing is going up for the new mechanical building



The machine shop is the oldest building on site and will be converted into an inventory warehouse.

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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.



Prototype wagon decks have arrived and are being used to plan the wagon assembly process.



The first of 14 track turnouts to be installed in the improved rail yard.



Wreaths laid at Hillside's war memorial for Anzac Day.



We will remember them

On Anzac Day our country remembered those who served their country in foreign wars. KiwiRail paid special tribute to the rail workers – 15,700 workers served in the First and Second World Wars. Sadly, 451 men paid the ultimate price in WWI and 391

men in WWII. No other single national employer lost so many.

Hillside Workshops contributed men to the war effort and the names of those workers killed in the First and Second World Wars are recorded on a Roll of Honour, two gold-engraved granite plaques. Located near the

Manager's Building on Hillside Road, the war memorial will be preserved and incorporated in the re-developed site, to continue to be a reminder of the sacrifice made. The memorial will be removed in the coming months and relocated to a new location in the landscaped area outside of the new office building along Hillside Road.

What can our neighbours expect?

Our building contractor, Otago firm Calder Stewart, is busy on site.

Construction activity will continue this year and into 2024. Looking ahead, there will be further minor traffic disruption on Hillside Road at times as this redevelopment work is carried out.

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.