

Ōparara Upgrade Project Update

October 2023

Tēnā koutou, welcome to the October update of the Ōparara Upgrade Project. The 19 October celebrations marking the reopening of the Heaphy Track as a through route were a great occasion for Karamea. We're happy to announce more good news with the Ōparara waharoa unveiling now confirmed for 16 November.

Ōparara access road upgrade

The road remains closed to the public on weekdays to allow upgrade work to continue. The intention is to get widening completed near K Road (approximately 10km in on the 16km road) and complete a gravel overlay on the worst sections of the remaining 6km. The challenges caused by wet weather have reduced the length of widening that can be completed, however, we have prioritised improving the worst sections of the road to allow the road to be reopened in a much better condition than last summer.

The road will fully reopen to the public on 1 December 2023.

Ōparara Arch Track upgrades

The Ōparara Arch Track has reopened with the track realigned around a small slip and a short ramp leading into shallow inground stairs has been constructed near the track entrance. The ramp and stairs have reduced the steepness of the previous staircase.

McCallums Mill Road viewing area

The final details for the installation of the waharoa are currently underway with an unveiling ceremony planned for the morning of 16 November. Anyone interested in attending the onsite ceremony please contact jcurtis@doc.govt.nz by 9 November for details and to allow arrangements for vehicles going to the site. Otherwise, there will be a morning tea at the Last Resort from 11am open for everyone.



Ōparara arch track stairs upgraded easing visitor access



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

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