Invercargill
CITY COUNCIL

Wednesday, February 25, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ATTENTION: CHIEF REPORTERS
CIVIC REPORTERS

Queens Drive to reopen on Sunday afternoon

Queens Drive will reopen to cars on the afternoon of Sunday March 2 – but motorists are being warned to drive with particular caution on Sunday morning, as the traffic lights at Queens Drive and Tay Street will be turned off for up to eight hours, while the permanent lights are re-phased.

Invercargill City Council Roading Manager Russell Pearson thanked the travelling public for their patience while the $7.9 million, four stage project had been undertaken – but stressed that extreme care would be needed on Sunday, and early next week, when the final $2.2 million stage of the road reopened.

“Even though the road will reopen on Sunday afternoon, I encourage motorists to take a different route during the day, as the traffic lights at Tay Street, Elles Road and Queens Drive will be turned off for several hours and traffic movements will be restricted as temporary lights are removed and permanent lights are reconfigured.

“There will be new traffic signals at the Don Street and Queens Drive intersection and it will take us a couple of days to make sure all traffic lights are running in an efficient sequence that allows the best flow of vehicles.

“We also want to stress that care is going to be needed for motorists using Doon Street because from Sunday afternoon all of those intersections will revert to their previous configuration. Motorists need to be aware of this and take extra care when negotiating these intersections,” he said.

Mr Pearson said while the road would reopen on Sunday, there was still some work to finish on footpaths and landscaping around the periphery, which was expected to take a couple of weeks.

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“In Yarrow Street, we are still waiting on PowerNet to put the new cable in, so it is in a temporary state until the new cable has been installed.

“It will be another couple of weeks until it is completely finished (excluding Yarrow Street) but we are opening the road now to minimise disruption.”

Mr Pearson said Council had originally planned to finish the project in April but in order to speed up the project, part of Queens Drive had been closed since November and the traffic diverted. This had allowed the work to proceed more quickly and in a safe manner. The contractor, South Roads, had been able to get the work completed so Council was ready to open the road earlier than planned, he said.

ENDS.

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