

Reference Project

Bridge Construction

Construction: 2 Suspension Bridges

Location Stern Creek & Stern Tributary Creek,
Old Ghost Rd, Westcoast

Date April 2014

Client Mokihinui Lyell Backcountry Trust

The Old Ghost Rd is a New Zealand Cycle Trail initiative near Westport that follows the Mokihinui River. Stern bridges are located 40km from the road end at Stern Hut.

Abseil Access Ltd were selected for this as a Design and Build contract. Both these bridges cross high mountain creeks which are subject to rapid high floods. Stern bridge is 37m long and Stern Tributary is 35m long.

With the long distance from the road end a lightweight structure was essential. 4m timber towers support a 19mm main cable. All materials, tools and drilling equipment were flown in by helicopter including 4m³ of concrete. Microblasting was required to excavate deadman trenches through the large buried river boulders.

Full construction from site set out to load test and sign off was completed in 28 days. Abseil Access had the unique combination of design capability, adaptive engineering, explosive expertise and rope access to provide a safe solution to these two river crossings.

The bridges are rated for 5 persons and passed the load test of 2500kg.

