

Reference Project

Bridge Construction

45m long swing bridge built in the Westland National Park, South Island

Location Whataroa River, Westland National Park
Date September 2022
Client Department of Conservation

Abseil Access won the tender for the rebuild of the 45m single width swing bridge across the Whataroa river at the junction with the Perth river, South Westland. The existing bridge had reached the end of its life and was removed during the construction process.

The work included:

- Establishing a camp at 300m in the native forest zone for 3 weeks as the site is 4hr walk in.
- Helicopter transportation of all bridge materials and the camp.
- Removal of the existing 6 wire bridge.
- Axial pull testing of all new bridge cable anchors to 200kN.
- Full construction in Bezinal coated cables and T6 aluminium alloy.

Our bridge building team met the challenge of west coast wilderness by construction of flyable huts, mountain tents and portable bathroom facilities. The track remained open with the public being carefully directed through the site and over a temporary bridge.

The build was completed in 3 weeks and passed the load test.

