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Reference Project

Bridge Construction

Design and Build of a 36m long suspension bridge as part of the Te Anau cycle trail.

Location Upukerora River, Te Anau, Southland

Date April 2021

Client Waka Kotahi NZTA

Consultant Abseil Access design team

The Te Anau Cycle Trail is another addition to the network of cycle trails throughout Otago and Southland. NZTA invited Abseil Access to design and build this bridge for the Fiordland Trail Trust in Te Anau. Its location adjacent to the road bridge enables cyclists and pedestrians a safer route than SH94

The work included:

- Design and engineering of the 36m bridge with a load capacity of 10 persons with a 3-x safety factor.
- High flood clearance
- A deck width of 1500mm enables cyclists to pass in both directions and meet the NZ Cycle Trail code grade 2.
- Aesthetic design and integration into the environment by using timber
- Steel angle hanger frames providing a lightweight, stable deck.
- H4 tantalized timber for a 50-year life



Main cable anchors and tower foundations are mass blocks 30mPa concrete. The 20mm IWRC main cables support 5 tons of deck as well as a 24kN live load. Abseil Access achieved deck stability using a unique continuously laminated kickboard and under deck catenary cables.

"It was a pleasure working with the Abseil Access bridge team. They looked after every aspect of the design, engineering, consenting and build and our bridge was completed and signed off within budget and on time. I would recommend them to anyone"

John O'Neill Network Manager Project Co-Ordinator Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency













