

APP- 20202268

Resource Consent: LU2020/012

Name of Applicant: Gore District Council

Location of site: Mataura River, River Street and River Terrace Road Reserve.

We Oppose this proposal:

I David Bone and Carmel Bone of 30 Huron Street Gore – phone 0272085004, Oppose the application from Gore District Council to construct the bridge for the following reasons.

1. Landscape and Visual Impact

The proposed Cable Stay bridge across the Mataura River will have a major impact on the natural landscape and views of the Hokonui Hills and Waimea Plains, due to the sheer size and height of the structure. We have lived at our present address for 32 years and have seen the popularity and the property values rise in this area of East Gore, thanks mainly to the magnificent views along our stretch of the Mataura River. Every day we look out our windows onto this view and admire it and the way it can change depending on conditions. To build this structure, which has no relationship with the surrounding area and makes no attempt to blend in with the natural landscape seems to be going against the trend of conserving and enhancing what nature has already provided, in this case an outstanding view appreciated not only by us but by tourists and visitors as well.

2. Erosion and Flooding

Over the considerable length of time that we have lived at our address we have seen ever increasing numbers of floods occur. Every time there is a flood, and there have been 3 significant events in the last 2 years, an increasing amount of erosion is taking place on the western bank of the river. As this is the location of the proposed foundation for the bridge we are concerned about erosion of this structure. During a flood because of the size of the foundation the water would have to flow around this plinth which would then impact the access points to the bridge on the western side of the river and may impact directly the safety of the bridge. During the last flood in February 2020, a large part of East Gore was evacuated due to uncertainty over the safety of the flood bank surely mounting a bridge and drilling a pipeline on and through this structure will impact its strength to withstand future flooding events.

3. Noise Pollution

At this time we have seen no evidence of any assessments of the noise pollution that the cables poles and bridge itself may create. We live in a high wind zone and it stands to reason that there will be noise created from the bridge's wire cables and possibly from the pole as well. There will also be significant noise from the construction of the bridge which could impact residents who are shift workers and need to sleep during the day. This bridge is very close to a residential area especially on the East Gore side of the river.

4. Light Pollution

The Gore District Council has, at this time, not provided any details on the lighting plan for the bridge. This could have a significant impact, not only on the natural environment, but also on the residents that will be impacted by the bridge. As the bridge is going to be open all the time day and night it would seem from a safety point of view that substantial lighting not only on the bridge but at both access points would be needed. One of the great things about living here is being able to look outside into the night sky and see the stars. How much impact will this lighting have?

5. Safety

At the moment there is no plan in place in regard to access and egress points for the bridge. We have significant safety concerns about this as it is one of the most important parts of the project and an integral reason as to why the bridge is being built. We feel that this should be included in the planning application as the bridge is being touted as a safer way to get from East Gore to West Gore but no safety issues have been addressed. The access from Huron Street onto the bridge will be on a blind corner that pedestrians and cyclists will have to cross, and at this time there is only a footpath on one side of Huron Street so access is limited. On the other side of the bridge where it exits onto Surrey Street there are no cycle lanes and the street ends on Hokonui Drive which is State Highway 94 and an extremely busy road. We think that how you get on and off the bridge is just as important as the bridge itself and should be included in the planning process. These access points will also impact on the environment and the views depending on how they are designed as the bridge is not a stand alone feature but has to work with all aspects of the proposed plan.

6. Lack of Consultation

The Gore District Council has been looking at ways to update the Gore water supply for a number of years and has been developing the proposed bridge option for the last 2 years at least. We as property owners have only just been made aware of the plan and by the time it was presented to us it was put forward in such a way that it made it seem it was a "done deal". We feel that we and our property are going to be significantly impacted by the proposed bridge. Two residents had a meeting with a council representative on the same day as the first and only public meeting was held in the East Gore Church Hall, but when asked why we were not approached to be at that meeting a council representative said it was just an informal get together and they had looked at the map and decided that we were not affected. We feel that the Gore District Council has not fulfilled its obligations in consulting with us or the rate payers in the Gore District. No options were presented to us and it feels like they have made up their minds and our opinions do not matter.

The Alternatives to the Bridge

The Gore District Council has a responsibility to make sure we all have safe drinking water and we totally understand the need to upgrade the system for the good of all. Our objection is that in building this bridge it may provide the means to get water pipes to and from the East Gore Water

Treatment Station but the on going impact on the rate payer will be significant. The size and visual impact of this structure on the natural landscape will be huge and it is not in keeping at all with the vistas that we enjoy. So many people comment on the stunning views we have it would almost be a crime to build that bridge that will be seen by so many.

We would like to see the Gore District Council investigate the alternative proposal of boring or entrenching the water pipes across the Mataura River at Maitland Street as this is in a direct line with the treatment station and closer to the source of our water at the Jacobstown Well.

The NZTA funding could be used for enhancing cycle tracks and making the Gore District traffic bridge over the Mataura River safer for pedestrians and cyclists. It could also be used to create inclusive tracks for not just cyclists and walkers but for those who are physically disabled as well. We would like to thank you for the opportunity to voice our objections to the proposed bridge.