

To: The Chief Executive  
Environment Southland  
Private bag 90116  
Invercargill

15 September 2020

Application to Environment Southland and the Gore District Council for the Proposed Longford Bridge, App 20202268.

Location: The Intersection between Church and Huron Street on the East Bank and Surrey Street on the West Bank

Desmond Henry James Horrell

41 Huron Street

Gore 9710

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I am directly affected by an effect as a result of the proposed activity in the application that: (a) adversely affects the environment; and (b) does not relate to trade competition or the effects of trade competition. We are not a trade competitor of the applicant for the purposes of Section 308B of the Resource Management Act 1991.

Name of Person Applying for Consent: Gore District Council

Proposed Activity and Location: The Longford Bridge and Pathway APP 20202268

I Desmond Horrell wish to oppose the application for the proposed Longford Bridge, App 20202268. I am the owner of 41 Huron Street Gore which is also the prominent house shown in the bridge proposal by the Gore District council.

I wish to **oppose** the application on the following grounds:

### **Visual Effects on 41 Huron Street, East Gore**

Having farmed in and around Riversdale and Otamita for over 50 years. The decision of moving from the farming sector to the urban sector was not taken lightly, coming upon 41 Huron Street and seeing the rural outlook I was comfortable in making the move to Gore. It was a quieter part of town which would help me adjust from rural life to town life. 41 Huron street had a direct view of the Hokonui Hills and the Mataura River which flowed through my family farm where I grew up. The two story view from my house gives me my rural outlook and offers me satisfaction along with all the comforts of retirement. In the evenings I often sit out on the veranda to watch the sun setting behind the Hokonui Hills, a breath taking sight in itself which has no obstructions to the view. I definitely oppose the bridge as the proposed Bridge will obstruct my view and this was the main reason for purchasing 41 Huron street.

### **Lack of Consultation**

Post Covid 19 lock down the new proposed bridge was brought to my attention by someone whose contract bid to build the bridge was successful. They showed me a proposal plan of the walk bridge that was in direct view of my property. I was deeply disappointed that I had not been consulted or approached by the council and was taken back when I was shown these documents. The first contact I had from council was by phone on the 19<sup>th</sup> of June 2020.

When the flyer was finally distributed I was very disappointed to see my house was in direct line of the proposed Bridge I would have thought that the council would have consulted me as I would be affected because my



house was in a prominent position, this was adding to my concerns and frustrations.

After seeing the bridge on the flyer it has created a number of concerns for myself.

## Concerns

1. The bridge would obscure my view of the Hokonui Hills and the natural flow of the Mataura River. Both were part of the main reasons for buying 41 Huron Street.
2. The 39 metre support pole for the bridge will destroy my natural view of the Hokonui Hills.
3. With the bridge crossing over the frontage of 41 Huron Street I have grave safety concerns for pedestrians and noise coming from large vehicles having to brake earlier to minimise hitting pedestrians who may be crossing, should a crossing point be put there on an already dangerous road and corner, I have been nearly hit myself while out walking on Huron street.
4. It has been said that the proposed Bridge is to be a tourist attraction in Gore with it being the biggest of its kind in New Zealand. My concern is for drivers being distracted while driving over the main bridge which may results in accidents.
5. I have concerns that lighting around the bridge will affect my lounge and bedroom which are both situated at the front of my house. The visual impact of my evening view of the sun setting behind the Hokonui Hills. I assume that the 39 meter pole will need to be lit up for aviation safety for rescue services, flood monitor aircraft and scenic flight plane rides.
6. I have concerns around the wires supporting the bridge. The high winds could cause vibration noise from the cable wires. This will be of a major concern during the strong winds especially during the NW winds which will carry the sound directly to my house.
7. My concern with having the bridge where it is proposed to go will act like a partial stop bank diverting pressure from the main flow of the river over to the eastern bank if this bursts it has the possibility to flood the entire CBD of Gore and may result in the loss of Life.
8. Lastly my concern is that the value of 41 Huron Street will be hugely effected due to the landscape views, lighting and noises from the

bridge. Will the council be willing to pay the difference in depreciation in house value should the bridge be accepted.

I do not wish to be heard in support of my submission.

I do wish to be involved in any pre-hearing meeting that may be held for this application.

I have served a copy of my submission on the applicant. Yes

I seek that the application is declined.

Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "D. Horrell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

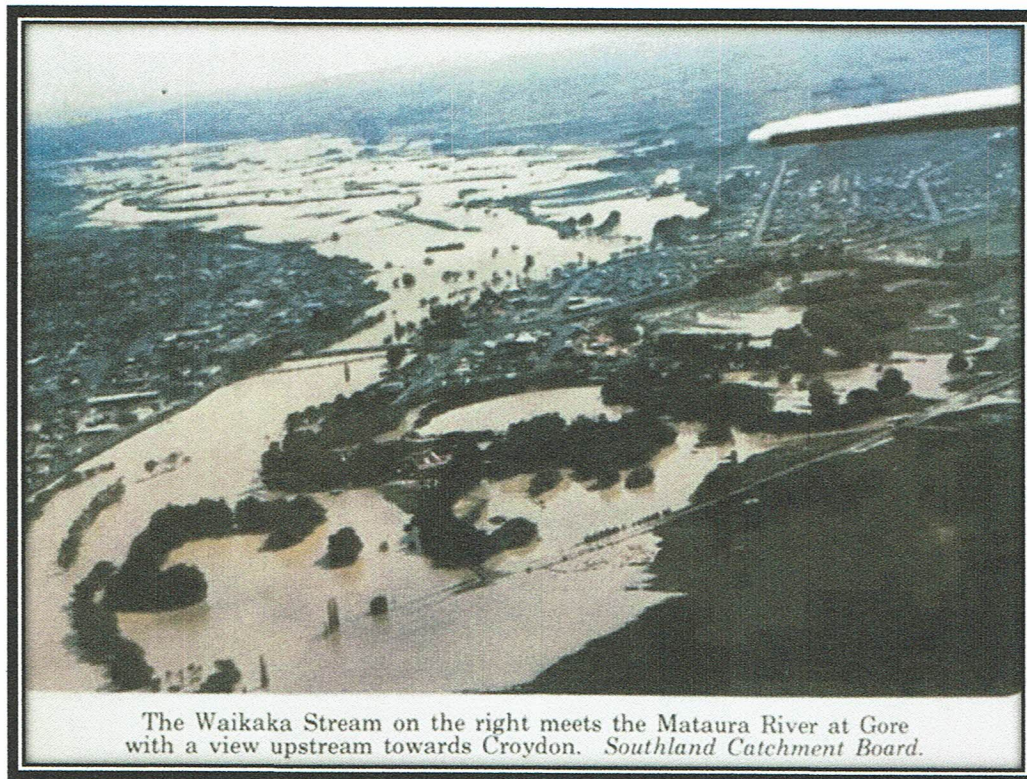
Desmond Horrell



1913 Flood







1978 Flood

## History of floods in Southland, the worst recorded in 1984

Staff reporter 14:33, Feb 05 2020

The state of emergency that was put in place during the flood was lifted on February 27.

Evacuations in Gore, Mataura and Wyndham became almost routine between 1968 and 1980.

In March 1987 heavy rainfall led to widespread flooding and a state of emergency was declared over the whole of Southland region except Bluff.

Southland also flooded in 1978 and 1913

On March 29, 1913, Gore was inundated by a flooded Mataura River.

Flooding in Southland was widespread and of record height, and at least three people were drowned.

# 2020 Flood

