

To: The Chief Executive  
Environment Southland  
Private bag 90116  
Invercargill

15 September 2020

**Application to Environment Southland and the Gore District Council and 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**

Submitter and address for service of documents:

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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. I am 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 **oppose** the application on the following grounds:

## 1. Flood Risk

- The building of an abutment on the West Bank of the Mataura River creates an obstruction on a floodplain. This abutment will also affect the direction of the flow of floodwaters.
- The increased potential for inundation by flooding due to work on the East flood bank for the construction of water pipes or any part of the Bridge structure will create instability and weakness in the flood bank, potentially leading to a breach when the river is in flood.
- Increased levels of gravel on the base of the riverbed north of the proposed bridge have increased the height and speed of the water at this point below the bend in the river. Because it is the narrowest part of the river, the velocity and higher level of water through this area during flooding has increased significantly, leading to concerns by locals of a higher risk of the bank breaching. (It was noted by a local resident that the flood bank was “shuddering” in the February floods); (and see erosion – Point 9).
- Irrespective of the proposed height of the new bridge, branches of trees coming down the river during floods could get ensnared in the cables of the bridge or the bridge itself.

Further to this there has been no public consultation or notification on the connecting infrastructure required to connect the bridge to the roading system across the flood plain and the roading structure on the western side of the river.

As a farmer and property owner on the Waikaka river I have experienced the damage to fencing and roading upon periods of flood inundation. During those inundation periods I have witnessed extensive levels of flooding on the Western side of the Mataura River of the proposed bridge construction.

I have contacted Representatives and Councillors on the GDC and no one has supplied any information on either the proposed infrastructure to connect the bridge to the roading system or the risk and mitigation procedure around flood inundation.

GDC has provided no notification on the capital cost required for connecting infrastructure of tracking, fencing and illumination nor the risk and mitigation for frequent flood inundation

**Action: I request that prior to any decision being made a full disclosure is made of the required infrastructure to connect the cycle pathway and walkway to the current roading system, including full capitalisation required for construction, and the risk profile from flood inundation.**

## 2. Light Pollution

- There is no current lighting plan for this bridge, yet from a safety aspect the 39 metres high pole would need to be lit for aviation flight paths, and for the safety of cyclists the pathways would need to be lit at night. Or does the Gore District Council plan on locking the bridge at dusk each night.
- There is no artificial light emanating from the farmland and the introduction of any new artificial light associated with the bridge and/or the walkway amounts to an adverse effect, and its significance is such that light pollution will be introduced into the “Outstanding Natural Feature” (This Outstanding Natural Feature needs to be contrasted with an “ordinary” new street upon which street lighting is permitted under the District Plan).
- No provision has been presented for the lighting required on the connecting pathway between the proposed bridge and the connecting road system. Under current Health and Safety requirements illumination will be required along the full connecting pathway unless the Bridge and Cycle/Walking Path is to be fully closed after the hours of darkness.
- **Action: I request a lighting plan which includes the effects on affected parties.**

## 3. Cultural Significance

Through my own dialogue with The Hokonui Rūnanga, consultation from GDC has only been since the public notification of the proposed Bridge. This oversight is insulting and is a direct breach of the RMA rules and associated Treaty of Waitangi obligations.

I am of Nga Tahu descent and this particular area of the Mataura river holds particular significance. The confluence of the Mataura and Waikaka rivers was where in 1836 the Ngati Tama raiding party led by Te Puoho camped on the night before capturing the Nga Tahu settlement at Tukurau. As a sixteen year old my great great grandmother Patahi was one of the two Nga Tahu women captured.

No effort has been made by the GDC to understand and preserve the rich history associated with this significant event, nor the natural environment so important to many Nga Tahu descendents.

There is no Cultural Impact Assessment associated with the application. Perversely the application states:

*Following consultation between the Council and Hokonui Rūnanga on this proposal, a cultural impact assessment (CIA) will be prepared to confirm the above assessment. The CIA will be made available upon completion.*

The application presumptuously assumes the CIA will confirm the assessment made in the application. The application has taken no regard to the Cultural Impact Assessment - because at the time of lodgement it was not available. This is a major omission in the application and as such the application is incomplete and fundamentally flawed.

I wish to be heard in support of my submission.

I 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.

I seek that the application is **declined**.

Signed: DG Morrison