

Hokonui Rūnanga
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Form 13

Submission on a publicly notified application concerning resource consent Environment Southland (App 20202268) and Gore District Council (LU 2020/012) under section 96, Resource Management Act 1991

Name of submitter: Hokonui Rūnanga
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This is a submission on an application from Gore District Council for the proposed Longford Bridge across the Mataura River. The application is for a resource consent to construct a new bridge to convey water and provide a cycle and pedestrian route.

The consent seeks approval to construct a cable-stay bridge across the Mataura River. The proposed location is near the intersection of Church and Huron streets, on the east bank in East Gore, and Surrey Street on the west bank. The bridge will be 90 metres long, 3 metres wide and 39 metres at its highest point.

The application is for resource consents as follows –

Gore District Council:

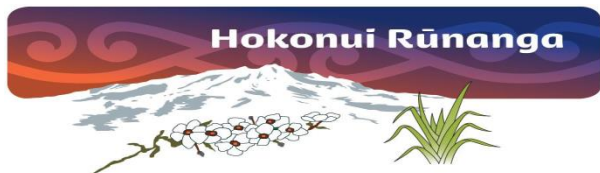
- Landuse consent for bridge construction (construction period)
 - Construction of bridge
 - Storage of fuel
 - Associated building materials
 - Earthworks
- Landuse consent for bridge construction (permanent activity)
 - Activities not permitted in Rural Zone
 - Activities in the margins of the Mataura River
 - Daylight admission of the mast of the bridge
 - Location of the western end of the bridge
 - Mast height of the bridge
 - Height and ground coverage of the bridge as utility support structure

Environment Southland:

- Vehicle and machinery operations in a stream bed (construction period only)
- Construction of a bridge
- Erosion control structures

The specific parts of the application that the Hokonui submission relates to are:

Hokonui's submission relates to the effects of the construction of the bridge and the ongoing use of the bridge on cultural effects.



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Background

Hokonui Rūnanga represent the rangatira and are kaitiaki of all natural resources within our takiwā (area). This includes the area to which the application relates. The Maitara River has Statutory Acknowledgement under the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act. A Statutory Acknowledgement is an acknowledgement by the Crown of a statement of Ngāi Tahu's particular cultural, spiritual, historical, and traditional association with specified areas, in this case, the Maitara River.

Given the scale of the project and the significance of the Maitara River to Hokonui, and having regard to obligations under the Treaty of Waitangi, we consider that the proposed bridge has an impact on Hokonui.

Under the Resource Management Act (RMA) 1991, decision makers must recognise and provide for the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu and other taonga and have particular regard to kaitiakitanga. Furthermore, there is a duty to avoid, remedy or mitigate actual and potential adverse effects on the environment. Hokonui considers there to be a potential adverse effect from the proposed activity on the cultural values of the river and that their role as kaitiaki has not been upheld.

Furthermore, as per Section 8 of the Resource Management Act 1991, decision makers shall take into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. It is extremely disappointing that the applicant only made cursory contact with Hokonui prior to lodgment of the consent which did not allow the Rūnanga to work with them as a project partner. Doing so would have upheld the mana of Hokonui and taken into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. Hokonui have prepared this submission with the aim to voice/address our concerns but, we consider the ability to have meaningful input is compromised by the presumptuous actions of Council.

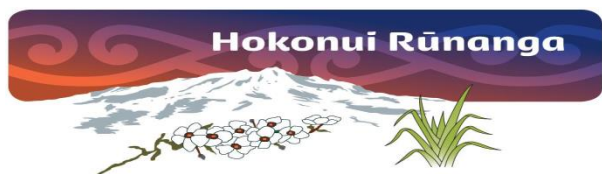
In particular, Hokonui believes that the principle of partnership has not been upheld by the applicant given a Cultural Impact Assessment from Hokonui was only been sought once the resource consent was lodged. As such, it appears to be superficial engagement in order to tick a box instead of being meaningful engagement.

Ongoing and meaningful consultation with Hokonui during the Business Case options development and assessment would have better informed the selection process and set up the project to have good engagement for its duration.

The submission of Hokonui is:

Hokonui oppose the application by Gore District Council for the following reasons:

1. The inadequate process that has been used to consult and engage with Hokonui and;
2. The actual and potential adverse effects on the cultural values of Hokonui from the construction of the bridge including the following:
 - the potential impacts of the bridge and associated works on the known archaeological site which is approximately 20 metres downstream of the proposed bridge on the true left bank
 - the ecological impacts of the bridge structure on the flight paths of avian taonga species



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- the visual impact of the bridge on the Mataura River given the river is identified as an area of Statutory Acknowledgement and an Outstanding Natural Features (ONF) in the Gore District Plan
- Safety of whanau members and the public in general using the bridge and associated cycle path, particularly around Huron Street

None of these matters are addressed in any significant detail in the application.

We appreciate the corrections to the amended AEE referencing Hokonui. However, the application is also in Te Ao Marama Inc (TAMI) rohe and as such, the application needs to refer to both parties.

Hokonui seeks the following decision from the consent authority:

Hokonui seeks that the application is declined or that the matters raised by Hokonui are addressed in a meaningful way that satisfies their concerns.

Hokonui wishes to be heard in support of their submission.

Hokonui are not a trade competitor of the applicant for the purposes of Section 308B of the Resource Management Act 1991.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Genevieve Doube'.

Genevieve Doube
Consultant Planner