

MINO-0488 Update on the Waiho River Bridge

13 October 2022

An update on the Waiho River Bridge for Minister O'Connor ahead of a meeting at 4pm today.

- Protection works on the existing Waiho River Bridge are complete and the bridge is providing the desired level of service. A regular programme of maintenance and riverbed monitoring is ongoing.
- The potential realignment of State Highway 6 is a key component of the work looking at the long-term future for the Franz Josef township, which would impact the existing bridge. MINO-0412 (attached) provides an overview of progress on funding and planning considerations in relation to the long-term approach for Franz Josef resilience up until June 2022.
- Since then, Infrastructure Reference Group (IRG) Ministers have considered a paper drafted by Kanoa – Regional Economic Development Investment Unit seeking approval to release funds to complete the full stop bank project on both sides of the Waiho River as requested by the Regional Council in 2020. IRG Ministers did not agree to these recommendations and asked officials, including Waka Kotahi, to work on a more sustainable solution.
- Officials have met several times since this decision to discuss the way forward and have agreed the next step is a briefing led by the Department of Internal Affairs to Minister Mahuta (as the lead Franz Josef Minister) outlining options to formally develop and agree for a sustainable long-term approach for the future of Franz Josef.

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