

Customer Interaction: 8000056521, Waiho River Bridge near Franz Joseph

Solution Description

02.05.2018 09:42:16 KODIS

From: Schroder, Kodi

Sent: Wednesday, 2 May 2018 9:18 AM

To: s 9(2)(a)

Subject: Waiho Bridge - Cyclists

Good morning s 9(2)(a)

Thank you for you query regarding cyclists access onto the Waiho Bridge in Franz Josef.

I can confirm that the clip-on is intended for pedestrian access and cyclists would find it very difficult to negotiate this walkway. There is no indication for cyclists to use the clip-on, with signage only indicating for pedestrian traffic.

The expectation here would be that cyclists use the bridge itself. Like all of our one way bridges the standard road rules should apply, i.e. cyclists have the same rights as vehicles on a piece of road. Vehicles should be yielding to cyclists on the bridge (and vice versa) just the same as they would yield to another vehicle. Priority for this bridge is for southbound traffic, this includes cyclists.

Whilst it is disappointing to hear cyclists are suffering abuse from motorists, it is apparent this may be coming from motorists who are not aware of this standard road rule. Standard signs do not exist for the purpose of informing motorists of this rule and if one was to be developed it would be expected to be on all one-way bridges. Some one way bridges already have several signs on the approach and adding another one like this can cause distraction and disregard for existing signs. If signs were not installed on all one way bridges it may also create the confusion that other bridges are exempt to this standard road rule and motorists are not required to give-way to cyclists.

Safety of road users is a top priority and as this issue is not one for safety we would be reluctant to make any significant changes that could create safety issues.

Thank you for getting in touch and feel free to contact me if you have any further questions.

Kind regards

Kodi Schroder

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Problem Description

30.04.2018 08:17:39 ZOEW

Email received:

First name

s 9(2)(a)

Last name

s 9(2)(a)

State highways/roads

Tell us your question or feedback

Waiho River Bridge near Franz Joseph on State Highway 6.

Last week I drove across this bridge, but before I did so I gave way to two cyclists riding toward me. Seeing the clip-on I enquired, "Isn't there a cycleway?" to which one replied, "It's too narrow". It was a genuine enquiry, as I thought when a clip-on was there, it was the safer option. I noted that it was narrow and thought nothing more about it until later that day when one of these cyclists confronted me. It became obvious that she was continually having to explain why she was cycling over the bridge, rather than on the clip-on.

There are many clip-on's on bridges and generally they are wide enough for both cyclists and pedestrians to use them. But according to this woman, she had tried to cycle on the clip-on but the handle bars on her bike were too wide for the width of the clip-on. She lives on Waiho Flats Road and often cycles to the village and by her reaction to me, is frequently being queried, and perhaps yelled abuse for cycling on the bridge rather than the clip-on.

If the clip-on was not there, then it would be accepted that everyone - pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles, would all use the bridge. I would not know whether vehicular traffic would always wait for cyclists crossing the bridge, or pass them on the bridge, but they would pass pedestrians. It would appear that because of its narrow width, the clip-on only caters for pedestrians.

This is a "temporary" Bailey bridge that has been there for longer than "temporary". Further, the nature of this type of temporary bridge may make it impossible for there to be a wider clip-on.

May I suggest some signage to indicate that the pedestrian clip-on is too narrow for cycling and that cyclists must use the bridge. I also suggest a sign for motorists to give way to cyclists on the bridge. The present situation is unsatisfactory. I await your response. Thank-you.