

18 October 2023

██████████
██████████

REF: OIA-13793

Dear ██████████

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your emails of 3, 4 and 9 October 2023 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Can you confirm a cost/benefit analysis was done around this situation, and if it was, how was it done without any tangible information estimating the actual cost to the community? Is NZTA required to consider these factors in their decision making, or is their mandate to simply provide the best engineering solution?

The decision to construct a bridge at the Taparahi slip did not use a specific cost/benefit analysis of the impact to the community. The slip was deemed an emergency situation and we were focused on finding the best remedial solution that could be built in the shortest time possible to reconnect the community. A short-term fix was not viable and considered too high risk, and therefore a cost/benefit analysis of a staged approach that included a short-term bypass to be delivered alongside the permanent solution was not carried out.

The process to select a solution included analysis of a range of factors, including the cost of the various remedial options (bypass, bridge or retaining). This also included consideration of expedited delivery to enable access through this vital route to be reinstated as quickly and safely as possible. Evaluating these factors led to the selection of a bridge being the best solution.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency also had to give regard to the implications of each solution within the Resource Management Act framework, including how each remediation option would be able to progress via the emergency works provisions compared to the standard consenting pathway. Even under the emergency works provisions, significant assessment is required to ensure that any solution will be viable when applying for retrospective consent following the completion of the works.

In line with Waka Kotahi policy, this response will soon be published on our website, with personal information removed.

If you would like to discuss this reply with Waka Kotahi, please contact Ministerial Services, by email to official.correspondence@nzta.govt.nz

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Kinvig', with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

Mark Kinvig
National Manager, Infrastructure Delivery