

# TAIPA BRIDGE

## THE PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT

Located on the southern shore of Doubtless Bay at the mouth of the Taipa River, the Taipa bridge plays an important role in the local community. It connects the Taipa township with Cable Bay to the east and is a popular swimming and fishing location for visitors and locals alike.

Taipa bridge is important to local hapu that share the kaitiakitanga in the Taipa area. A memorial adjacent to the bridge marks the first landing place of the Polynesian explorer Kupe. The river and estuary that the bridge crosses are also places of significance to the hapu and their ancestors.

This project aims to create a safe environment for the community and those driving through it.

The Taipa bridge's location on Northland's main tourist connection, The Twin Coast Discovery Route, means it plays a critical role in the Northland economy. The existing bridge has limited provision for pedestrians and does not provide for cyclists, both of whom are important components of the tourist economy.

Improving facilities for people who enjoy walking and cycling, and highlighting Taipa's appeal as a popular swimming and fishing destination would encourage more visitors and contribute to the local economy. A new bridge would also provide the local community with safer, more reliable travel options.

During the peak visitor season, traffic demand is higher than usual. There are regular delays, and road safety concerns with the bridge and nearby intersections.

In addition, the road through Taipa (SH10) plays an important role as an alternative route to use if SH1 is closed.

Addressing these issues will help achieve a number of priorities identified in the Regional Land Transport Plan 2015, namely route resilience, economic growth and productivity, and road safety.

