

REFERENCE PROJECT

Suspension Bridge Construction

Location: Mokihinui Southbranch, Old Ghost Rd

Date: December 2013

Client: Mokihinui Lyell Backcountry Trust

The Old Ghost Rd is a New Zealand Cycle Trail initiative near Westport that follows the Mokihinui River. Mokihinui Southbranch bridge is 30km along the track located near Goat Creek hut.

Abseil Access Ltd were selected for this as a Design and Build contract. This major river is 70m wide and regularly floods its banks. This bridge required 2.5m clearance above flood levels and with the access ramps was designed to span 88m.

With the long distance from the road end a lightweight structure was essential. Total weight of the bridge structure was tuned down to 9 tons. 9m timber towers and 24mm cable. All materials, tools and drilling equipment were flown in by helicopter including 3m³ of concrete. Micro blasting was required to excavate deadman trenches through the large buried river boulders.

Full construction from site set out to load test and sign off was completed in a record 18 days. Abseil Access had the unique combination of design capability, adaptive engineering, explosive expertise and rope access to provide a safe solution to this river crossing.

The bridge is rated for 5 person and passed the load test of 2500kg.

