

REFERENCE PROJECT

Suspension Bridge Construction

Location: Kumara Chasm on the Wilderness Trail
Date: December 2014
Client: Westland District Council
Engineer: Jon Calder, Department of Conservation

The Wilderness trail is a 120km 4 day cycle ride through rain forest and historic gold mining towns on the South Island Westcoast. The Kumara bridge crosses a chasm next to the Taramakau River. Extra care was taken to preserve the beauty of the location during construction.

Abseil Access won the tender to construct the 75m long suspension bridge across the chasm. The 1.5m wide deck and 10 person load limit make it suitable for large cycle parties as well as small maintenance vehicles. The tower footings and the ground anchors required 16m³ of concrete.

The construction team worked through all weathers to complete the project within the 24 day period.

On completion the bridge was successfully load tested to 5000kg

