

## **ABSEIL ACCESS LTD**

## **Reference Project**

## **Swing Bridge Construction**

Location: Moeraki River, South Westland

Date: Sept 2009

Client: Department of Conservation

This bridge crosses the Moeraki River on the old cattle track link between the West Coast and Maori Saddle. The new 40 metre long bridge replaces an old swing bridge across this spectacular, fast flowing river.

Abseil Access Ltd won the tender to manufacture and install the 40m long timber deck swing bridge and 11m access truss. The design was by DoC engineer Jon Calder.

Six tons of equipment was flown in and the crew of four stayed in the nearby Blow Fly Hut. The project initially involved strengthening the anchor rocks at each side with 3m deep grouted 30/11 Ischebeck anchors. Compressed air was used to drill into this hard quartz-rich schist. Both concrete tower foundations were drilled and grouted into the rock embankments. The 11m truss was flown in as a single unit and positioned on concrete footings by helicopter.

The 1.2m RB20 anchor rods support 16mm galvanised cables and 26 steel hangers. The new structure was built one metre above the old swing bridge, which was removed as part of the tender.

The crew experienced true West Coast rain for nine of the twelve days. The project was still completed within the designated construction period.













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