



Kia ora koutou

Welcome to the project update about the construction of the Nile River Suspension Bridge as part of the Kawatiri Coastal Trail from which will link Westport to Charleston.

Background

Buller District Council (BDC) is building the Nile River Suspension Bridge crossing as part of the 55km long cycle/walkway from Charleston to Westport known as the Kawatiri Coastal Trail. The trail takes you along the coastline taking in Carters Beach, Cape Foulwind and Tauranga Bay while traversing along forest, wetlands, rugged coastal cliffs, wild seas and boardwalks and tracks.

The trail is planned to cross the Waitakere/ Nile River via a new suspension bridge, utilizing the old approaches and abutments of a historic suspension bridge that was demolished in 1940. Funding for the bridge has been provided to BDC from Waka Kotahi – New Zealand Transport Agency to cover the bridge construction and management and maintenance.

What's Next?

With the building and resource consent granted, construction will commence in March. Construction and project management is being delivered by Buller District Council

The site of the old bridge contains heritage values; hence a Heritage New Zealand approved archaeologist will be onsite during the excavation works to record and document any items of significance that may be found. The Archaeologist will be overseeing this with the aim to protect and celebrate the history and environment of Charleston.

Abseil Access Ltd were awarded the contract to build this suspension bridge on the Kawatiri Coastal Trail. They are a specialist bridge building company with a strong record of building suspension and swing bridges. Initial stages of construction have begun with Westreef undertaking site clearing to allow Abseil Access to gain access to the two abutments. Bridge construction is due to start in late March and is expected to be finished no later than the end of May.

Project timelines are subject to change due to unforeseen weather impacts. Surrounding landowners will be informed and notified of any changes to the current schedule.

Impacts for road users:

- Temporary road closures to Beach Road between the State Highway 6 and Mays Road as required for construction purposes.
- A short detour will be in place surrounding these works and closures at this time.
- It is expected a two-week disruption to road users from the commencement of the bridge construction.

To view the Kawatiri Coastal Trail map and more information visit:

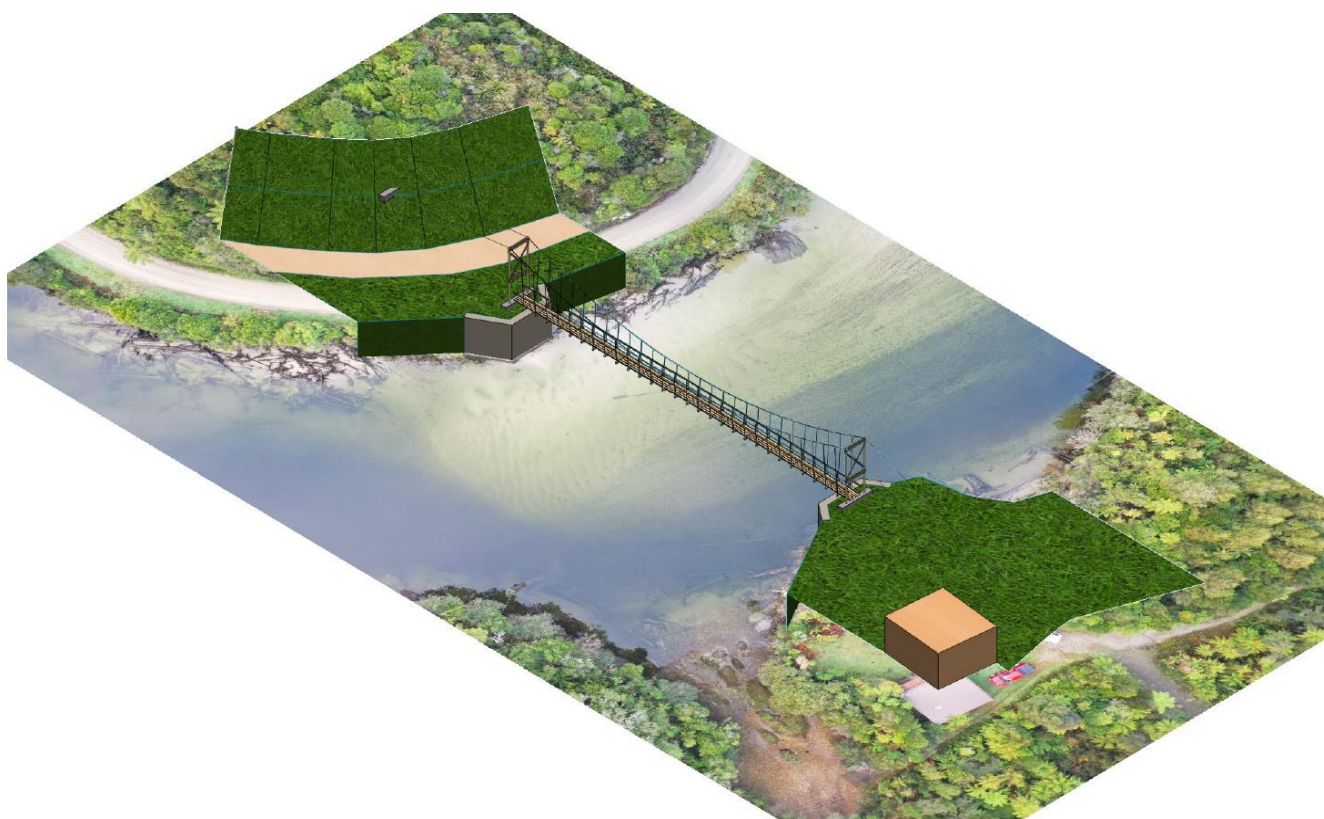
www.kawatiricoastaltrail.co.nz

Abseil Access Site Contact:

Alex Wilmshurst – Project Manager

Phone: (04) 801 5336

Email: Alex.Wilmshurst@abseilaccess.co.nz



Safety Notice:

Abseil Access Ltd will be running a Safe Site Hazard Identification protocol. It is important to note that the construction site is a **restricted site**. There is no public access to the suspension bridge till the project is complete.



If you have further enquires, please email: info@bdc.govt.nz
Or phone: 0800 807 239