

**Rebecca Beaumont**

Team Lead - Permissions

Hokitika Shared Service Centre – *Wahanga Ratonga Pokapū o Hokitika*

**Department of Conservation- Te Papa Atawhai**

**WEST COAST TREE TOP WALK  
ZIPLINE PROPOSAL**

Dear Rebecca

I reply to your questions in your email dated the 26<sup>th</sup> July 2019 as follows

**Noise Effect**

The start of the zipline at Tower 5 is 280m south of the edge of Lake Mahinapua and well over 2km from any walking or cycling track or the boat ramp for the Lake.

The zipline mechanical operation does not produce any audible sound

The noise level of speech is 60 Decibels

The world record for screaming is 120 decibels set by an American women

There will be a small number of zipline users who will show a high level of audible excitement. We expect one in ten to show excitement. Riders will leave Tower 5 at 3 minute intervals. Therefore in any given hour there will be two riders showing a high level of excitement. The ride time is just over 20 seconds and the rider is likely to be excited for the first 5 seconds of the ride. Therefore for every hour there will be 10 seconds of excited noise levels.

Rider excitement is likely to produce a sound level in the order of 100 to 110 decibels.

Measured at the Lake southern side this level of excitement will result in sound levels of around 60 decibels or no higher than speech level at the Lake southern edge.

Further to this the sound will be dampened and absorbed further by the thick forest between Tower 5 and the Lake so sound levels will be much lower than 60 decibels and more likely around the 40 decibel mark well below speech sound levels.

In summary the sound of excited riders from the zipline will not present any issue for Lake users or cyclist or walkers due to its low level of noise which is well below the speech level of 60 decibels.

**Clarification on Vegetation Clearance**

The zipline alignment has been chosen to ensure that it will not require any trees to be removed. It will, however, require some minor trimming of tree branches to ensure rider safety as they zip along the line. Along the 450m alignment length of the zipline it is anticipated that minor branch trimming will be required between CH 50 and CH 250 as the zipline descends through the tree foliage. Overall trimming will be required for a length of 200m. Considering the size of the site's leased area which is protected by the Tree Top walk and the overall area of heavy tree foliage in the area the trimming is considered to be very minor with little if any impact on the site's appearance . The trimming will not have any impact for Tree Top walk users as the trimming will not be seen by users of the walkway.

**Impact of proposal in context**

The zipline is a 50mm diameter cable which cannot be seen by the naked eye against the forest's dark background. Riders will be seen by Tree Top walk users for the first 100m of the ride and then they will disappear into the tree forest reappearing at the Visitor Centre in open paddock.

The attraction will be an exciting experience for the rider as well as a an eye catching experience for the Tree Top Walk user as riders are seen zipping from 45m above the ground into the tree canopy and disappearing out of site. The zipline cannot be seen from outside the site at either the Lake or Woodstock Rimu Road. The zipline is a natural exhilarating fit for the site along with the Tree Top walk which is an exhilarating experience carrying the visitor up into the canopy from 20m to 45 m above ground level. It is seen as a natural extension of the walk through the forest at tree canopy level by providing a free exhilarating ride through the tree canopy. The two fit perfectly together by providing a different mode of travel thru the tree canopy.

**Confirmation of information to be excluded from notification**

DOC have permission to advertise all information submitted by the West Coast Tree Top Walk in support of the zipline proposal

**Health and Safety Requirements for Adventure Activity**

Zipline Technologies Limited are the designers and construction contractors for the zipline and have many years experience in the development of ziplines in New Zealand. They are hence fully aware of the Health and Safety requirements and will submit all the required information to both DOC and the Westland Council to achieve the required operational certificates. This operational requirement forms part of their contract with West Coast Tree Top Walk.

Yours Sincerely

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