Fish Passage Retrofits

QUESTIONS COMING OUT OF THE COROMANDEL NATIONAL FISH PASSAGE SYMPOSIUM – NOVEMBER 2013

Craig Redmond, Environment and Urban Design Team, Highways
The policy and the plan

POLICY / ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Section 96(1)(a) of the Land Transport Management Act requires that the NZTA exhibit a sense of social and environmental responsibility. We promote an accessible and safe transport system that contributes positively to New Zealand's economic, social and environmental welfare, and we are committed to acting in an environmentally and socially responsible manner.

We are committed to protecting and enhancing the natural, cultural and built environment, enhancing the quality of life for New Zealanders by improving community liveability including land transport safety, taking appropriate account of the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi, providing meaningful and transparent engagement with stakeholders, customers and the general public and providing customer focused services that are fair, trusted and efficient.

To implement our policy we will:

- promote the safe and efficient movement of goods and people in a manner that avoids, to the extent reasonable in the circumstances, adverse environmental and social impacts
- continuously improve performance in the management of environmental and social impacts
- integrate good urban design into all our activities
- work to improve our knowledge and understanding of the extent and condition of New Zealand’s environmental and cultural heritage assets
- maintain and improve opportunities for Māori to contribute to our decision-making processes
- actively and meaningfully engage with affected and interested persons and organisations
- identity and comply with all relevant environmental and social legislation and regulations
- seek whole-of-life value for money by taking into account environmental and social costs and benefits when procuring goods and services
- provide our employees with the skills, awareness and leadership to achieve environmental and social objectives.

We have described aspects of our approach in more detail, including our Environmental Plan that guides the Highways and Network Operations Group and our action plan for the New Zealand Urban Design Protocol, to which we are a signatory.

State highway environmental plan: improving environmental sustainability and public health in New Zealand

Our environmental plan sets out our strategic environmental and social vision to enable us to set specifications and standards for our contractors undertaking road works. The plan is also available to help and guide other land transport operators.

Published: June 2008

New Zealand Government
In response to a number of requests for assistance by our asset managers we developed a fish passage guide for state highways that provides them the basics and directs them and their consultants to additional information.
Culverts, culverts and more culverts
The retrofit pilots – that I know of.....
Pilot: Coromandelel
Site 1: Waipapa Stream 2009
Site 1: Waipapa Stream 2013
Site 2: Petote Stream 2009
Site 2: Petote Stream 2013
Site 3: Kaitemako Stream 2009
Site 3: Kaitemako Stream 2013
Site 4: Waitekuri Stream 2009
Site 4: Waitekuri Stream 2013
Overall Observations

- Three of the four retrofits require maintenance.

- The use of concrete, while robust, does require careful thought due to the sensitivity of the receiving environment.

- Reinforces the need to get culverts design right the first time.
More Questions Than Answers

- Need to understand how the assets are recorded?
- Do retrofits actually work in delivering the ecological benefits desired?
- Are there better ways to retrofit culverts that are safe to install, long lasting and provide ecological the benefits?
THANK YOU

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