



Bridges



Introduction

The Taranaki Regional Council regulates the bridging of rivers and streams within the Taranaki region under the Resource Management Act 1991, through the Regional Fresh Water Plan for Taranaki (RFPW).

Plan Provisions

Rule 57 of the RFPW authorises the construction and use of bridges as permitted activities (no resource consent required) provided certain standards are met. The key standards are:

- cross sectional area of the river bed on or over which the bridge is to be placed (measured from the top of each bank) is no greater than 10m² (see figure 3)
- the bridge has no abutments or piers fixed in or on the bed
- the bridge soffit is placed level with or above the adjoining ground level
- no disturbance of any part of the bed covered by water (ie, no instream works) between 1 May and 31 October
- the Council must be informed that the placement of the structure is to occur, at least two working days prior to the commencement of works.

If you cannot meet all of the standards then a land use consent will be required from the Council. Other standards from Rule 57 that must also be considered are:

- structure shall not alter the natural course of the river nor reduce channel capacity to convey flood flows, (eg, if there is significant water build up upstream of the bridge during flood flows then a permit may be required)
- no significant erosion, scour or deposition results from placement of the structure
- structure shall not restrict the passage of fish
- excess construction materials shall be removed from the bed
- sediment disturbance shall not conspicuously change the visual clarity of the water beyond a zone of reasonable mixing (defined as seven times the width of the stream)
- there shall be no significant adverse effects on aquatic life or instream habitat
- disturbance of the bed shall be the minimum necessary to carry out the required works
- no contaminants shall be released to the river bed from equipment being used for the activity, and no refuelling of equipment shall take place on any area of the river bed.

If a bridge is proposed that does not meet the requirements of Rule 57, then a consent is required pursuant to Rule 64 of the RFPW and the application is classified as discretionary.

Consent information requirements

The key information that must accompany bridge applications includes:

- legal description of land on both sides of the stream (shown on rate demand)
- site plan showing location on stream in relation to buildings, main farm tracks, nearest road, and property boundaries etc. (See figure 1).
- plans of the proposed bridge including plan view (see figure 2), and cross-section (see figure 3) showing the profile of the bed and banks of the stream in relation to the proposed structure, normal and highest known flood levels
- timing of works (estimate of start and finish dates), and the nature and duration of any instream works and any mitigation measures proposed
- consideration of fish passage.

Contact should be made with your district council to determine if the bridge requires a building permit/consent.

Bridge maintenance

Maintenance of a bridge is permitted under Rule 53 of the RFPW provided standards are met. The key standards are:

- water diverted from the structure, for the purposes of carrying out the activity, shall be for a period of no more than 48 hrs (ie, instream works must be less than two days).

Other standards from Rule 53 that must also be considered are:

- activity is for the purpose of maintaining structure in good repair or working order or for minor upgrading
- no contaminants shall be released to the river bed from equipment being used for the activity, and no refuelling of equipment shall take place on any area of the river bed
- sediment disturbance shall not give rise to a decrease in visual clarity of water of more than 50% beyond a zone of reasonable mixing that is persistent and ongoing
- there shall be no significant adverse effects on aquatic life or instream habitat
- all material removed from the structure and excess construction materials must be removed from the bed
- disturbance of the bed is the minimum necessary to carry out the required works.

If proposed maintenance of a bridge does not meet the requirements of Rule 53, then a consent is required pursuant to Rule 54 of the RFPW and the application is classified as a controlled activity that may be non-notified without written approval.

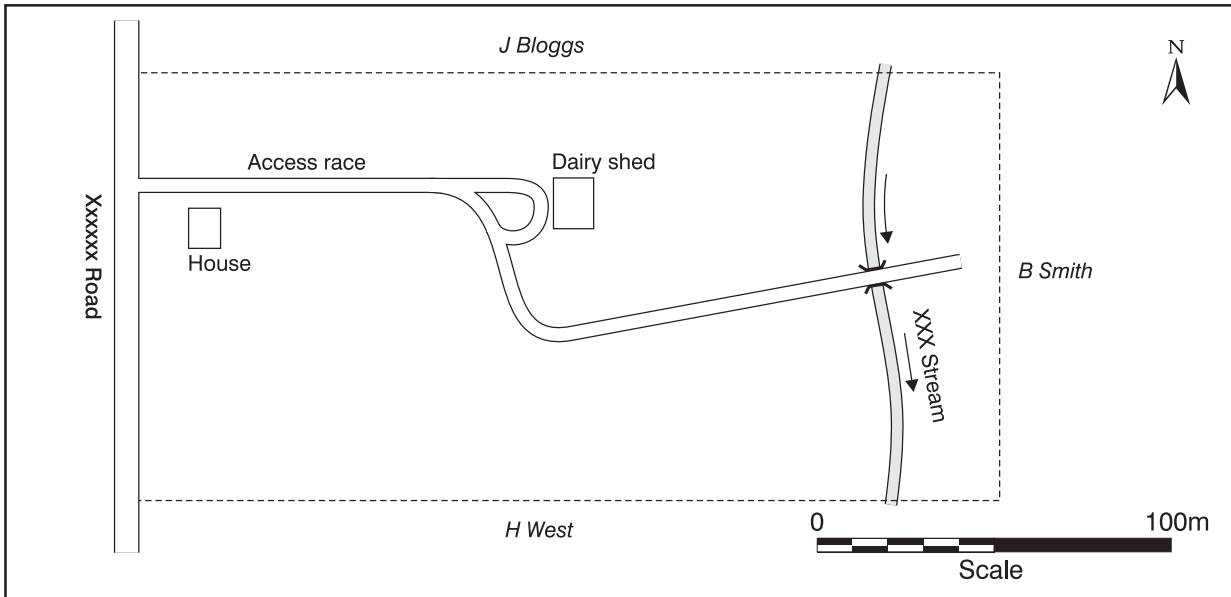


Figure 1: Example of a site plan.

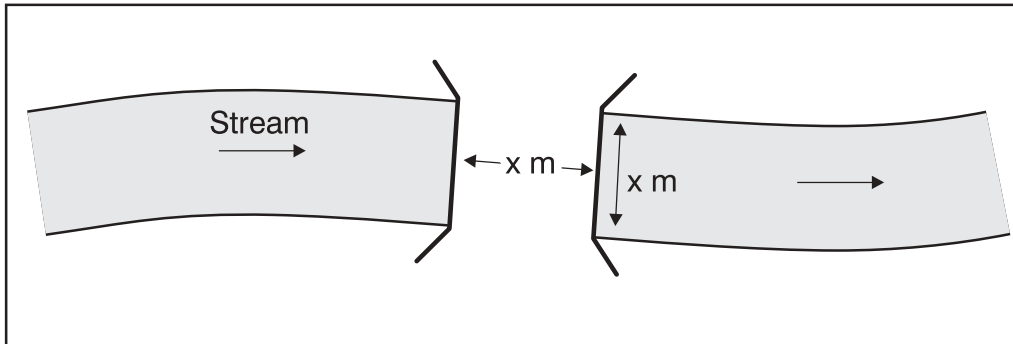


Figure 2: Example of a plan view.

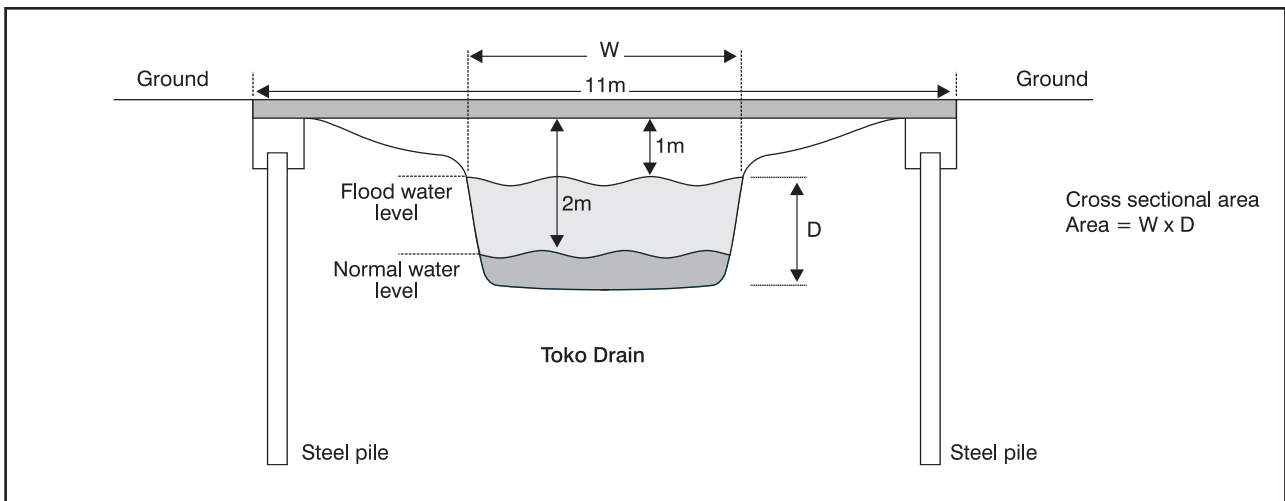


Figure 3: Example of a cross section.

If you require further explanation of the information in this pamphlet, please contact:
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