

ADDENDUM 31 January 2024

Weld Road Reserve Coastal Shared Pathway and Swing Bridge LVEA

From: Renee Davies, landscape architect.

1.0 Further to the Section 92 request from Taranaki Regional Council and feedback from the New Plymouth District Council and associated LVEA peer review undertaken by Richard Bain, the following provides additional information, clarifications and amendments to the LVEA.

2.0 Landscape and Visual Effects Scales

2.1 The LVEA was first prepared prior to the publication of the latest version of the New Zealand Institute of Landscape Architects (NZILA) landscape assessment guidelines – Te Tangi a te Manu (adopted and published in July 2022). As such the LVEA refers to an earlier version of the NZILA guidelines. Irrespective of this, the LVEA utilises a seven point scale which is the type of scale recommended by Te Tangi a te Manu.

The key points of difference in the scale is the lack of a low-mod and mod-high definition. For clarity – the equivalent can be considered as follows:

7-scale effects assessment reference	Te Tangi a te Manu 7 point scale
Negligible	Very low
Very low	Low
Low	Low-moderate
Moderate	Moderate
High	Moderate-High
Very High	High
Extreme	Very High

The attached amended LVEA provides an updated assessment that has re-assessed based on the Te Tangi a te Manu 7 point scale to ensure clarity on the effects assessment outcomes. Te Tangi a te Manu does not provide any explanations/definitions in their table, however this is able to be provided by assessors if they feel it is beneficial. Te Tangi a te Manu does emphasise under 6.24: In any event, such descriptors do not replace the need to describe the specific nature of the effect, rate its magnitude, and explain the reasons. It should be noted that the LVEA does provide description of the nature of effect and explains reasoning for its rated magnitude and as such is considered consistent with Te Tangi a te Manu.

In summary the landscape effects assessment remains at moderate, but the visual effects assessment has been updated to reflect that depending on whether the assessment is considering the bridge or the shared pathway, the degree of visual effect for different viewing audiences is different. The updated visual effects summary is provided below. Please note also that the visual effects summary recognises that during construction effects will be temporarily increased due to the required machinery to be located within the beach zone during construction/placement of the rocks in particular.

Table 1 – Visual Effects Summary

Viewpoint	Ranking	
	Short Term (construction effects)	Medium – Long Term
Viewing Audience A – Bridge: Recreational users of the trail network either side of the Weld road reserve	Moderate-High	Low - Moderate
Viewing Audience A – Shared pathway: Recreational users of the trail network either side of the Weld road reserve	Moderate-High	Moderate
Viewing Audience B - Bridge : Users of beach adjacent to the site	Moderate-High	Low
Viewing Audience B – Shared Pathway : Users of beach adjacent to the site	Moderate-High	Moderate
Viewing Audience C - Bridge: Ocean and surf break users	Moderate	Very low
Viewing Audience C – Shared Pathway: Ocean and surf break users	Moderate-High	Low-Moderate

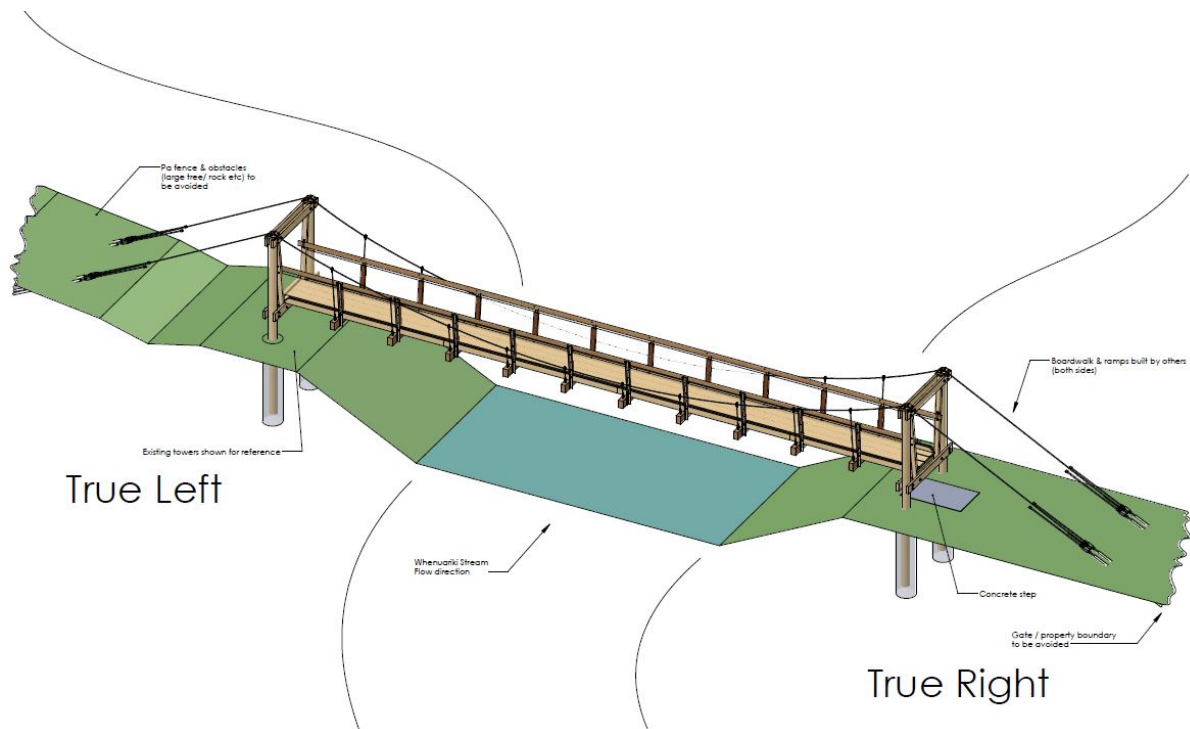
The visual effects for the proposal range in the medium to long term (after construction) from very low to moderate. For the different viewing audiences, there are two that sit at moderate effects with the remaining three being very low, low-moderate or low. As the viewing audiences and proposed component of the proposal (whether bridge or shared pathway) are quite different, there is no overall visual effect that summarises in totality.

3.0 Bridge Design and Visuals

The peer review comments on the lack of illustrative material to describe the replacement bridge. Additional visual material has been included in the updated LVEA under Section 5.

The addition of this visual material has highlighted that the visual effects of the bridge and shared pathway need to be considered separately, as the scale of effect is quite different for each of these components of the project. As such, the LVEA table of effects has been updated to reflect this.

The following provides an overview of the bridge design included in the updated LVEA.



4.0 TRC Regional Landscape Study and Coastal Inventory

The LVEA peer review highlights that an assumption cannot be made about the Regional landscape study not identifying high natural character. Review of this report does outline on page 38 an approach to high natural character. *Setting aside the more pristine areas of outstanding natural character, much of the remaining Taranaki coastal environment has retained its high natural character. It contains large areas with little or no development or modification, and is generally under no significant pressure for use, development or protection.*

The area of the proposed works at Weld Road headland is located within the Coastal Management Area C. Under this coastal management area (open coast), it is identified as containing areas of high amenity value (specific areas identified in Schedule 3). This is where the regionally significant surf break is identified under Schedule 4 and is referred to in the LVEA. On the Coastal Plan maps 2023 the areas in question is **not** identified as having high natural character.

Policy vii identifies that the coastal management area C

is largely of high natural character, including the adjoining land dominated by the coast, except for in the vicinity of the New Plymouth urban area and other discrete areas where built form dominates such as coastal subdivisions and settlements, and in areas of substantial river mouth or coastal protection works;

Given that the associated maps do not identify this area as having high natural character (likely due to the above identified of substantial river mouths, it is considered appropriate that the LVEA identifies that the area is not considered under the Regional Coastal Plan as being of high natural character.

5.0 Assessment under Proposal Section

The LVEA peer review identifies an assessment component outlined under Section 1.2 of the proposal. There is no visual or landscape assessment included in this section. There is reference to the options explored for the walkway that were undertaken prior to the LVEA being undertaken. These options determined the proposed work that is part of the proposal being assessed by the LVEA and is considered appropriate to reference these options to be included and why the proposal being put forward was determined by Council.

6.0 Public Consultation

It should be noted that in considering the degree of effects that there was a fully public consultation process undertaken with the local community about whether the community wanted a formal walkway around the headland or not. The feedback from that consultation showed support from the community for a formal walkway provision around the headland. Although the community consultation undertaken for the proposal was not part of a consenting/RMA process, the views of the community as determined through this public consultation have been acknowledged as part of the LVEA as outlined in the recognition of the engagement process undertaken to inform the options explored and design outcomes for the proposal. This approach is consistent with the NZILA guidance where the LVEA has determined an independent professional opinion on landscape and visual effects but with an awareness of the views put forward from the community through that consultation process.