

Whangarei District Council, however, and really should have picked up that fact.

Traffic congestion has been a major issue in Whangarei and the bridge, the Kamo bypass, the Spedding Road and Porowini Avenue links, and four-laning the highway through the city are all part of a strategy to solve this issue.

Our strategy has attracted extra government subsidies worth \$64 million over the next three years to put in place infrastructure totalling \$84 million which will solve our problems for the next 30 years. Surely Mr Slater isn't suggesting we adopt only short-term fixes.

The bridge designs he refers to are in fact bridge concept designs, which means they are concepts to start people thinking.

The concepts for the bridge were produced to promote public understanding that Whangarei has

an opportunity to build a signature structure which will be instantly recognised elsewhere as belonging to Whangarei.

They should serve to inspire the contractors who build the bridge to come up with an innovative and eye-catching design in keeping with the expectations of the public, who are sure to embrace the notion that a basic piece of roading infrastructure can also be a showpiece for the district.

Until the bridge builder has completed the design, the value of the aesthetics will not be known, but Mr Slater's fear that they may be a "large proportion" is unfounded. Mr Slater thinks only of cost and not of the value the bridge will be to the district's roading strategy and to its image.

Finally, Mr Slater mentions the quality of the water under the bridge and this is another area where his

Bridge part of strategy

Your correspondent Warren Slater makes the extraordinary comment that our second harbour bridge is controversial. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The bridge has been an integral part of the district's urban transportation strategy for 15 years, but then Mr Slater quite recently arrived in our district and perhaps does not know this.

He has attended meetings of

lack of understanding of wastewater treatment processes leads him astray.

Treated wastewater is vastly cleaner than the water in Limeburners Creek upstream and is virtually 100 per cent water. Unfortunately, Mr Slater is unable to get past the concept that wastewater is poo (his term).

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