



Proposed bridge concept for Lower Hatea River

- A pivot of draw bridge
- B Cable for raising draw bridge
- C Cable or tubular brace

Sail theme: Letter writer Malcolm Ford offers this design as an alternative to proposed culturally driven designs.

Constructive criticism

The basic structure of the proposed bridge design over the Lower Hatea River appears to be very conventional, even trite.

If the computer images indicate the type of construc-

tion and how it will look then anything tacked on (paddles, nets, whale bones) will look superfluous.

Form should follow function. With the issue of protecting whales in our waters it seems insensitive to have anything on a bridge symbolizing the slaughter of whales.

A boat approaching the proposed design would get the impression of a barricade protecting the inner harbour from visitors.

If Whangarei means "the meeting place of whales" then the proposed design

suggests an unfortunate end to the "meeting".

During further discussion with friends regarding the images (Leader, February 2), it was suggested that it is easy to disagree with an idea but it takes more careful consideration to present alternative ideas.

So to make my criticism constructive I submit a sketch for a design study which has a sail theme which I believe would be appropriate. I welcome comment from your readers.

MALCOLM FORD
Whau Valley