

Bridge

Why do public bodies keep spending – wasting perhaps – tight purse strings on nonsense like the Hatea River bridge when ratepayers and taxpayers are stretched to the limit.

I would like to add that I favour the lock and weir type of crossing.

RICHARD CHILCOTT
Hikurangi

Original

I read in the Whangarei Leader that the district council wants the new Hatea River bridge to reflect Whangarei's history and culture.

I would suggest that the council looks at the photos at the Whangarei Museum of the original bridge, with a central lift, that spanned the Hatea River at the Town Basin and model the bridge on that.

Spending the extra \$1 million on what is proposed is a total waste of ratepayers' money.

Please remember it was the early European settlers who made Whangarei a thriving settlement.

E HANSEN
Whangarei

Simple

The council should be looking at just building the bridge that's required for the job.

They could put the "about \$1 million" extra for a "decorative design" toward a decent sewerage system or else take it off our sewerage charge.

– Abridged

J KENT
Onerahi

Say no

The bridge designs featured in the Whangarei Leader on February 2 look like an eyesore, and the extra added cost seems to be more than obscene.

Do we really need this much extra decoration

to the construction?

Most of us still think that an extra \$1 million is a lot, so who pays?

With the latest unemployment figures up considerably, especially affecting the north, is this the time to be fiscally irresponsible? Any extra can always be added later as further funds are available, or as wanted by future residents.

Why can't we have a plain bridge that will not obstruct views of our beautiful river and make it safe for drivers without dreadful looking dizzy shadows to deal with along with oncoming traffic?

Doesn't safety come into the equation?

Many seem to say we need to make it more attractive to draw more tourists to our city.

We have such beauty in the natural icons of this city, mountains, rivers, beaches, nature reserves. How can a bridge that looks like the pathetic dried bones of an upturned whale compete?

I think we need roads in and around the city flowing far more urgently than an over-the-top icon.

Let's say no to this and any other unnecessary designs for another bridge.

ANN HEATLEY
Tikipunga

Well spent

I would support either the whale or the waka design – in preference to the fishing nets – to embellish the basic functionality of the new harbour crossing.

To my mind, either one could in fact symbolise both concepts and it would be great to have something iconic and distinctive like this for Whangarei.

When spending nearly \$35 million an additional \$1m to finish it off properly would be money well spent.

JOHN NICOLE
Whangarei