

RESPONSE TO SUBMITTERS EVIDENCE

1. At the time I wrote my evidence I had not seen the Statement of Evidence by Maurice Rodway on behalf of the Waiau Working Party. Mr Rodway raises a matter in the 'Conservation of previous distributary channels of the Lower Mararoa River" section that I want to respond to.
2. Mr Rodway is concerned that the installation of culverts in the haul road may constrict natural flows and limit fish passage in and out of the distributary channels. Instead, he suggests in Paragraph 41, lowering the haul road where it crosses the channels to allow natural passage of water between the wetlands and the main channel; in essence creating a ford. I note that the 2018 NZ Fish Passage Guidelines (and the soon-to-be-released 2nd edition of the Guidelines, which I reviewed) prefer large, single, round culverts (embedded $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of the culvert diameter) over fords because culverts keep vehicular traffic out of the waterway. I also note that, in response to the submission by the Director-General of the Department of Conservation (paragraph 12), General Condition 13 requires that permanent culverts within the 'lacustrine channels' are installed in accordance with the current NZ Fish Passage Guidelines.

Mike Hickford

13 September 2024