

Neroli Cross submission to the Long Term Plan

I disagree with the current preferred location of placing a second bridge off Chalmers Avenue.

Where the second bridge should be located I believe is West Street to Melcombe Street, as you would only need to build a bridge.

As this is a State Highway One issue and we all pay road user charges to fund these projects, I believe that NZTA should be paying for any new bridge 100%.

The Chalmers Avenue-Tinwald East option will hugely increase the traffic on Chalmers Avenue which will then effect the safety of the children and adults who are crossing over Chalmers Avenue.

Chalmers Avenue already has a high accident rate. This issue will just increase with the extra traffic driving along.

The proposed bridge at Chalmers Avenue will see trucks and heavy transport turning off State Highway One at Grahams Street in Tinwald and those vehicles travelling along the proposed new road to service farming and industries that are located North-East of the Ashburton township. Some councillors appear to not realise this will happen.

Increased traffic on Chalmers Avenue will create community severance by splitting East Ashburton in half.

I believe that it is now time again to consult with the community, as nearly 10 years has passed since the last consultation and it seems very clear the community is raising some serious valid issues and this was backed up with the high turnout from the community at the recent meeting held at the Ashburton Intermediate school hall.

There has never been full support for the Chalmers Avenue location from around the Ashburton district councillors table and the current proposed location was only passed when the then Mayor Angus McKay cast his deciding vote, while Councillor Alistair Urquhart was advised not to vote due to a potential conflict of interest. This was forced on him at the eleventh hour.