

25 June 2006

Katherine Hume-Pike
Riverstone Holdings Ltd
PO Box 390
WANAKA 9192

Re: Fiordland link experience – latest revised route

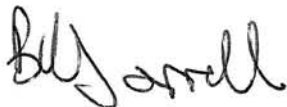
Dear Katherine,

Following our phone conversation on Thursday, the following is a brief summary of the change in route as we discussed.

1. NIWA was engaged in 2004 to provide an assessment of the proposed monorail on the Dunton Swamp, an important fen wetland on the route. Our report (Sorrell & Reeves 2004) outlined the potential effects and proposed some mitigation options. The new route (Proposed Route Option 'C') shown on the map you provided to Ton Snelder avoids the Dunton Swamp, remaining in the river bed from kilometres 21-25.
2. The draft Boffa Miskell report you provided identifies that Route Option C traverses two smaller wetlands (one at km 26 and one at km 27). I have not seen these wetlands and cannot comment specifically on any potential effects on them. From the Boffa Miskell report, it appears that the km 26 wetland is very similar in ecological character to the Dunton Swamp – i.e. it is a wetland with a peaty substrate, receiving water both as rainfall and from groundwater (a fen). The vegetation in the km 27 wetland is consistent with a site that receives almost all of its water from rainfall and also has a peaty substrate (a bog). For both wetlands, similar impact issues and mitigation options are likely to be applicable, but further conclusions would require closer inspection of the sites. The two sites are not referred to specifically by Lee & Elliot (1995) and Rance (1995), although they may have been included as part of the overall wetland values of the district in these surveys.

Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss this further.

Yours faithfully,



Brian Sorrell
Principal Scientist, Freshwater Ecosystems

Lee, W.G.; Elliot, G.P. 1995. Snowdon Forest – proposed monorail route: biological assessment. *Landcare Research Contract Report LC9495/117*.

Rance, B.D. 1995: Wetlands of the Te Anau Basin – an ecological investigation. Department of Conservation, Southland Conservancy, May 1995.

Sorrell, B.; Reeves, P. (2004) Fiordland Link Experience – Wetland Assessment. *NIWA Client Report CHC2004-065*.