



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Media release

1st November 2017

Temporary closure of Whangaehu Swing Bridge for repair until March 2018

The Whangaehu Swing Bridge has been closed for repairs from this week until March 2018. The swing-bridge is on the Round the Mountain Track and is approximately 3km south of the Tukino ski field access road on the Eastern flanks of Mount Ruapehu.

Damage to both main cables on the swing-bridge has been identified meaning the bridge requires partial replacement. Until this work can be completed the bridge is closed for all pedestrian access. In the interim, river crossing access will be marked to the most practical point on the river, however, hikers are advised to be careful of loose rocks in the river channel and not to attempt crossing in flood conditions.

Department of Conservation Operations Manager Bhrent Guy stressed that any river crossing should be carefully evaluated and whenever possible, crossed as a group. Hikers are also reminded not to linger in the area as the river is the natural lahar path from Te Wai ā-Moe, the Crater Lake, on Mt Ruapehu.

Mr Guy said the Department understands the site has an increasing number of users especially going into the peak summer tramping season and is committed to completing work as soon as possible with all work to be completed before the 'Ring of Fire' ultra-marathon which happens in April 2018.

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Contacts

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Background information

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/central-north-island/places/tongariro-national-park/about-tongariro-national-park/central-north-island-volcanoes/>

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/volcanicrisk>

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/central-north-island/places/tongariro-national-park/things-to-do/tracks/round-the-mountain-track/description/>

