

# Hatea River bascule bridge - Te Matau ā Pohe

Sailors approaching Whangarei's Town Basin on the Hatea River at the very top of the Whangarei Harbour now pass under the spectacular bascule bridge arching across the river known as Te Matau ā Pohe, the fishhook of Pohe.

This \$32 million structure is the largest and most expensive Whangarei District Council civil engineering project in the District. Inspired by the design of Maori fish hooks crafted of bone, the sleek, pale structure provides a grand entrance and spectacular exit for those arriving at and departing the Basin. While many vessels are able to pass under the bridge without requiring the bascule (lifting platform) to be raised, vessels over 6.5 metres in height need to phone or radio a request to see if the bridge needs to be lifted. There is no charge for this service. Vessels waiting can tie up to pontoons on either side of the bridge.

## Raising the bridge

### Vessel height

#### Vessels over 6.5m in height

Vessels over 6.5m in height (above water level) need to phone or radio a request to see if the bridge needs to be lifted. Skippers will be asked for their mast height.

#### Vessels 4m to 6.5m

Vessels under 6.5m height (above water level): contact bridge control to see if the bridge needs to lift. Skippers will be asked for their mast height.

## Contacting Bridge Control

Use VHF Channel 018 or phone to request the bridge to lift and to obtain instructions. The contact phone numbers for the operator are: +64 9 438 7261 and +64 21 401 752. The bridge will not operate when wind speeds exceed 34 knots (gale conditions).

## Seasonal operation

The bridge has two operating schedules, one for summer and one for winter.

The summer schedule begins when daylight saving begins in September and finishes when daylight saving ends in April. In 2017 the summer hours will start on 24 September and will end 1 April 2018.

The winter schedule begins when daylight saving ends in April and ends when daylight saving starts in September. In 2018 the winter hours start on 1 April and will end 30 September 2018.

## Normal Operating hours

- 2017 Daylight Saving commences 24 September 2017 and ends 1 April 2018
- 2018 Daylight Savings commences 30 September 2018 and ends 7 April 2019

### Summer weekdays (Mon-Fri):

8:45am to 4pm and 5.30pm to 7pm (excludes the 7:15am to 8:45am and 4pm to 5:30pm peak traffic periods below)

### Summer Weekends (Sat-Sun):

7am to 7pm

### Winter weekdays (Mon-Fri):

8:45am to 4pm

### Winter weekends (Sat-Sun):

8am to 5pm

Te Matau ā Pohe is also opened on a scheduled basis at 12pm local time daily. Skippers are encouraged to make use of this time if tide conditions suit.

## Response time

Vessels waiting can tie to the Marina Pontoons at each side of the bridge. During normal operating hours we have a target response time of 5 minutes for the bridge to be opened from the time that a skipper makes their request.

Outside of normal operating hours the service is on-call with a target response time of 30 minutes for the bridge to be opened from the time that they make their request.

Outside of normal operating hours skippers are encouraged to 'book' a time for the bridge to open. Where a booking is made, the target response time shall be within 5 minutes of the time of their booking (subject to the vessel arriving on time).

## ONE WAY PASSAGE ONLY

Preference to incoming / outgoing vessels varies daily and preference will be indicated by Bridge Control.

**BRIDGE WILL NOT BE OPENED DURING PEAK ROAD TRAFFIC PERIODS**

**7:15am to 8:45am & 4pm to 5:30pm – Monday to Friday**

Vessels waiting can tie to the Marina Pontoons at each side of the bridge.

To contact bridge control to open the bridge and for instructions:

**VHF Radio: Channel 018 – Phone: +64 9 438 7261 or +64 21 401 752**

Channel width between wooden marker piles	16.0m
Channel depth between wooden marker piles	1.0m below Chart Datum
Vertical clearance above MHWS level when bridge is closed	7.5m to underside of bridge

**Wait for permission from bridge control on VHF before proceeding**

Watch electronic notice board on face of bridge at all times for messages and instructions.