

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

SMYTHE CONTRACTORS LIMITED.

In August 2005 Western Bay of Plenty District Council tendered a contract to install a submarine watermain under Waihi Estuary between Maketu and Pukehina, Bay of Plenty.

Council chose to construct this pipeline by directionally drilling the entire width of the estuary to minimize any effect on the ecologically sensitive estuary, foreshore and seabed environment. Waihi Estuary has an abundance of marine life and is a significant source of kaimoana for local Maori. Waihi Estuary is subject to tidal fluctuation and flow, at high tide the full width of the estuary is under water.

The new watermain was a continuous 'string' of 250mm outside diameter, welded polyethylene pipe, 340 metres long.

The contract was awarded to Smythe Contractors Limited who have two of the largest directional drilling machines in NZ.

Works were deferred until after the summer holiday period and the dotterel breeding season.

A camping ground is situated on one side of the estuary and a dotterel breeding area is located in the sand dunes at the other side of the estuary.

Smythe Contractors Limited completed this contract efficiently with no disruption to the operation of the campsite and no impact on the environment. They took just over two weeks to complete; from establishing on site, welding the pipes together, pressure testing the pipe string, directionally drilling the pipeline across the estuary and then disestablishing.

Smythe Contractors Limited acted competently and professionally throughout their contracting operations. They have the technical personnel, plant, machinery and other resources to successfully complete a challenging project.

We have no hesitation in recommending Smythe Contractors Limited to undertake other similar works.

Duffill Watts & King Ltd.



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