

The Caversham Valley Peripatus: an example of NZTA & DOC Collaboration



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UNIQUE ECOLOGY OF
CAVERSHAM VALLEY SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

2013 REAAA Roadshow



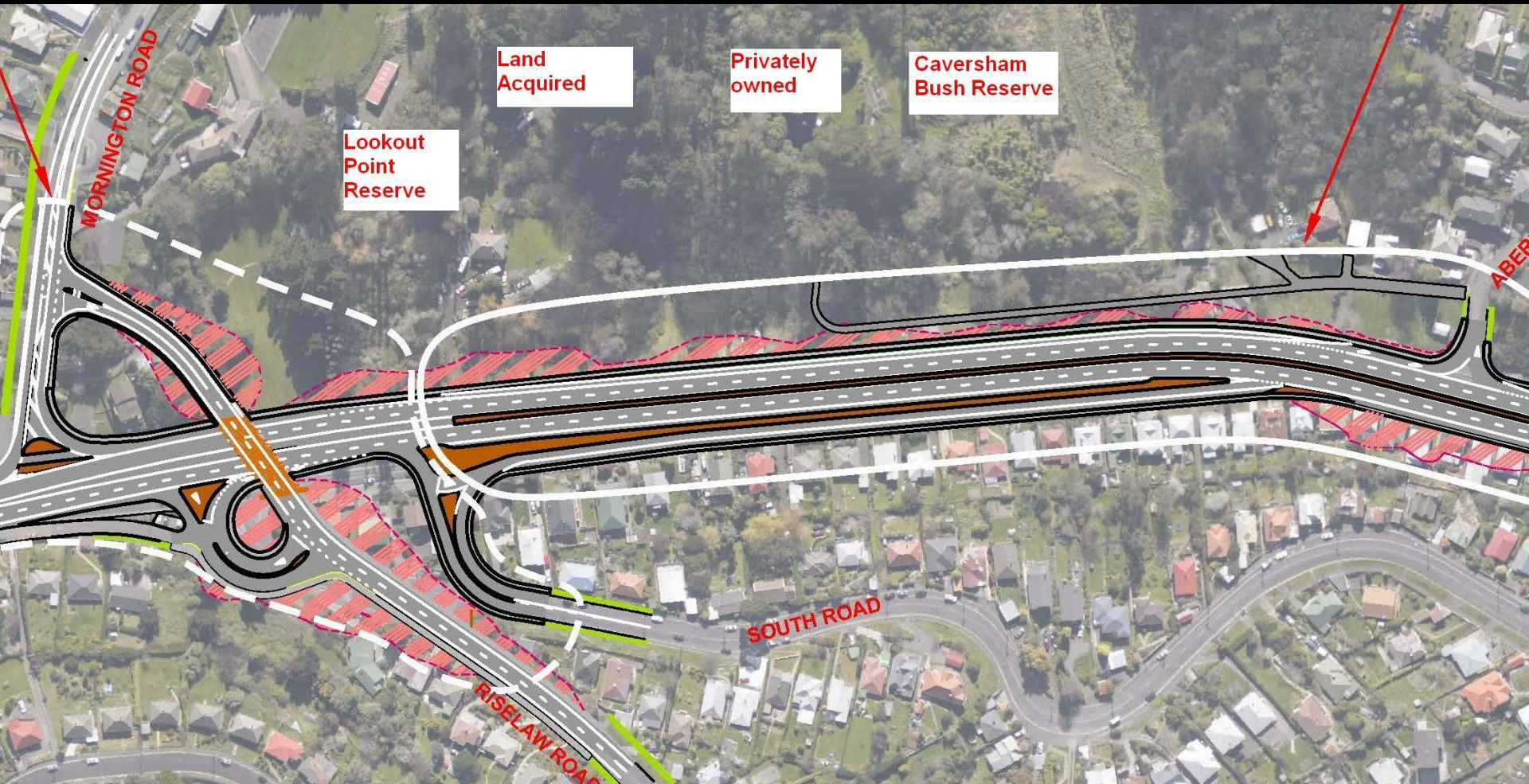
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Accommodating special native flora and fauna when constructing roading networks is not new.

There are many examples throughout NZ, from Cape Reinga to Bluff



KAURI TREES AT WAIPOUA FOREST, SH12.



BAT ROOST TREES, SH94, EGLINTON VALLEY, FIORDLAND NATIONAL PARK



NORTHLAND GREEN GECKOS, NORTHERN MOTORWAY, SH1 NTH AUCKLAND.



FERNBIRDS, NORTHERN MOTORWAY, SH1 NTH AUCKLAND.



SH1 NTH OF AUCKLAND, WAIWERA TUNNELS.



**BUT WORKING AROUND AN OBSCURE
INVERTEBRATE IS NOT VERY COMMON!**



WHAT IS A PERIPATUS?

- Sometimes called the ‘Missing Link’
- The evolutionary step between a worm and a caterpillar
- They have simple legs that are not as advanced as those of a caterpillar.
- Nocturnal, jets of saliva kill prey



WHERE ARE THEY FOUND?

- They occur all around the Southern Hemisphere.
- They occur throughout NZ
- A number of different species
- Still being described



THE NZ SPECIES ARE STILL BEING DESCRIBED

- Peripatus have not been extensively studied
- Modern genetic analysis suggests that small populations may be unique species.
- If this is accepted, then the Caversham Peripatus would be “Critically Endangered”.
- The same classification as the kakapo



SO.....WHY DO IT?

- It's the “missing link”
- Scientifically interesting
- Locally treasured
- Caversham Valley is a key site
- Dunedin City Council even created a reserve for this species
- Local landowners, F&B, committed to protecting them
- Studied by Otago University students
- Opportunity to increase knowledge and awareness



FROM DOC'S PERSPECTIVE WORKING WITH NZTA ON THIS PROJECT HAS BEEN GREAT.

- This was because NZTA.....
- Accepted the importance of this species from the beginning
- Were very proactive with suggesting options for protection
- Increased the area of reserve land in Caversham Valley
- Translocated displaced peripatus
- Sponsored production of a information/resource document
- Awarded a special award at the Otago Conservation Awards in 2012.

PRODUCTION OF THE PERIPATUS DOCUMENT

- Established working group
- DOC
- Dunedin City Council
- Ngai Tahu
- F&B
- Dave Randle
- Rod Morris
- Edited, formatted and published May 2014, by DOC national Office.



Special thanks to:

Ngai Tahu/Otakou Runaka

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F&B

Rod Morris

DCC

