

# Council cash backs bridge restoration

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By ANTONY PALTRIDGE

THE New Plymouth District Council has backed plans to save Tikorangi's historic Bertrand Rd suspension bridge.

The council's environment committee this week decided to give the trust which is seeking to restore and reopen the bridge a \$10,000 grant from its heritage fund.

The bridge was built in 1927 and replaced an earlier one opened in 1897.

It has a category two listing from the Historic Places Trust, while the council is considering giving it a category A classification in its proposed district plan.

But in October 1985, due to continuing deterioration, the bridge was closed to all traffic except pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists. It is also used for horse trekking and cattle.

A report prepared last year by a registered engineer put the cost of repairing the bridge at \$459,000.



**COUNCIL CASH:** The historic Bertram Rd suspension bridge was built in 1927, but is now closed to motorised traffic.

Trustee Peter Wilson, who lives adjacent to the bridge on Bertrand Rd, said the council's grant was good news.

Mr Wilson said the trust would use the council's support to gain money from other funding sources.

"It's important because it links two

districts, it's a historic link and it is the only bridge suitable to get stock over the Waitara River."

Mr Wilson said the bridge was reasonably sound and the council had carried out maintenance to ensure it was safe for pedestrians. The trust has until June 30, 2001 to use the grant.