

MAY 2013



Looking east towards Penrith from Emu Plains

Nepean River Green Bridge community update

Further to the NSW Government's commitment to build a new walking and cycling connection between Penrith and Emu Plains across the Nepean River, community consultation was undertaken in September – October 2012 on possible bridge designs. Feedback received from the community raised concerns about the impacts of the displayed options. Subsequently, the options were reviewed and a preferred bridge design has been selected.

In response to issues raised by the local community, the Government has revisited the bridge designs including the KI Studio truss bridge, which was not previously formally displayed for community comment.

The KI Studio design has been chosen as the preferred option as it best addresses the main concerns raised by the community, including the requirement for a wide clear span underneath the bridge for rowing activities.

This bridge design also meets the option selection assessment criteria and the objectives of promoting Penrith as a river city, sitting sensitively within the landscape and fitting with the Penrith City master plan.

Background

In May 2012 Transport for NSW commissioned a transport study to identify the most suitable location for a new 5 metre wide shared pedestrian and cyclist bridge. An alignment approximately 200 metres south of Victoria Bridge was determined as best meeting the location assessment criteria of safety, function, community and cost.

Studies related to the project can be viewed on the RMS project website at www.rms.nsw.gov.au/roadprojects.

Benefits of the new bridge

The new pedestrian and cyclist bridge will:

- Enable safe walking and cycling for commuters, travel to school.
- Improve walking and cycling accessibility between Penrith and Emu Plains.
- Enhance leisure opportunities and tourism.
- Support Penrith City Council strategic plan *Future of Penrith – Penrith of the Future*.

Designs previously displayed for community comment

Option 1 – CM+ cable stayed bridge



Option 2: Roads and Maritime Services cable stayed bridge



Option 3 – Roads and Maritime Services I girder bridge



Community consultation

During the exhibition period in September 2012, feedback was obtained through a number of methods.

A community update was prepared and distributed seeking public feedback on the three possible bridge designs. A community workshop was also held at Penrith City Council on 20 September 2012 where participants were asked to provide feedback on the merit of the designs in relation to five key assessment criteria:

Visual appeal

Create a regionally significant structure that distinguishes Penrith from other places and optimises views of the Nepean Valley and Victoria Bridge.

Provide opportunity for engaging with the river

Connect the river and the suburbs of Penrith and Emu Plains with opportunities for people to engage with the river.

Fit with the surrounding area

Respect the historic setting and place and be sensitive to adjacent residents' privacy, and consider noise and lighting impacts.

Fit for purpose

Provide a shared-used crossing that is flood proof, comfortable and safe to use.

Constructability and maintenance

Be practical to construct, have minimal maintenance requirements and be easy to inspect.

Key issues raised

Approximately 600 feedback forms were received by mail and via the website. The key issues of concern raised by submissions were:

- potential impacts on rowing activities and waterway users.
- concept designs' visual appeal.
- environmental and amenity impacts on neighbouring properties.

The Bridge Design Evaluation Report taking into account all stakeholders' comments is on display for community information and can be viewed at www.rms.nsw.gov.au – go to road projects.



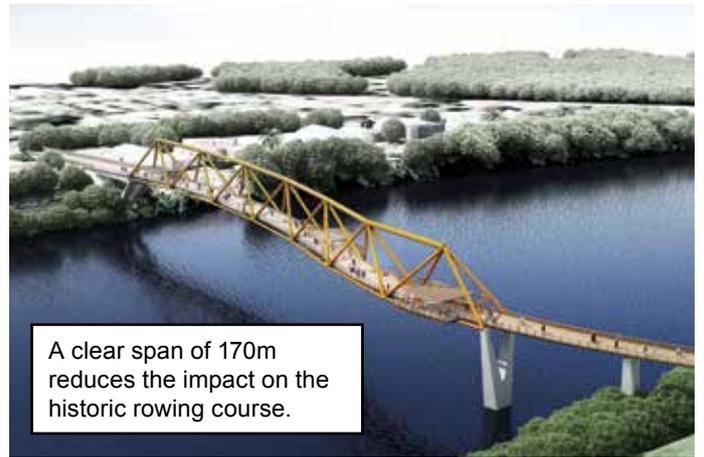
RMS is investigating options to integrate the eastern landing into the proposed development on the former Log Cabin site.

Location overview of the proposed bridge, looking west

Possible inclusion of viewing decks.



Possible viewing deck detail



A clear span of 170m reduces the impact on the historic rowing course.

View looking south towards Penrith



The bridge separates walking and cycling areas.

Detailed view of bridge, looking east

Additional option revisited

In response to community comments the three initial architectural options (as featured in the original bridge options report), were revisited to see if there was a more suitable option that could address the community's concerns.

The KI Studio option provides a larger clear span, thereby reducing the impact on the rowing course. The uniqueness of the truss provides a landmark structure, whilst also blending into the existing environment as it retains a similar built form as the nearby railway bridge. The KI Studio option was therefore brought back into consideration and was endorsed by the Steering Committee and Penrith City Council.

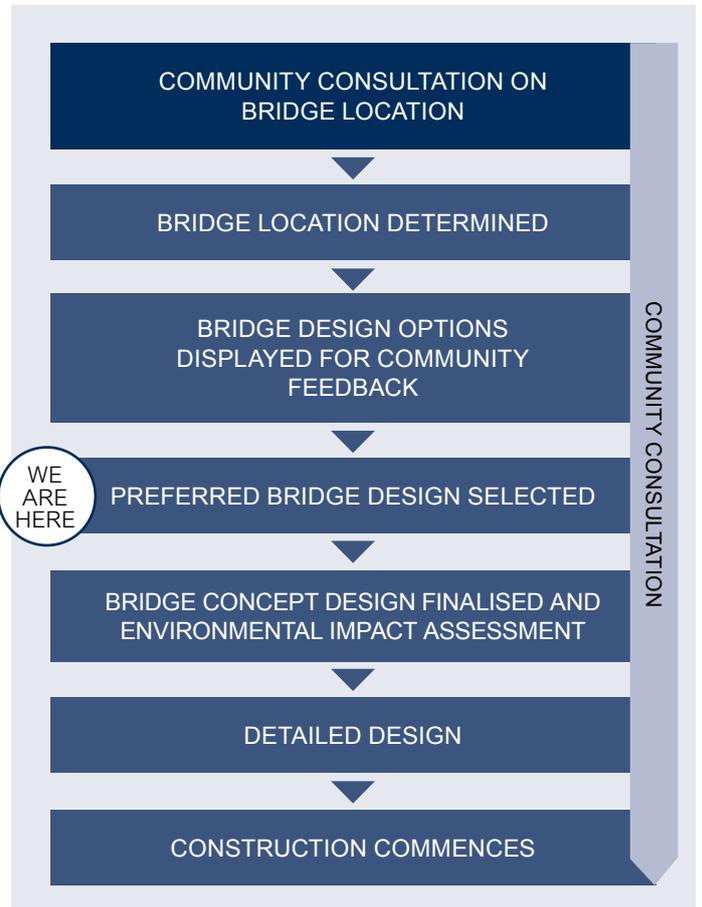
Possible alternative location for the eastern approach

Ongoing consultation has revealed that the preferred bridge design option could potentially be integrated with the Log Cabin redevelopment site.

By moving the bridge approach further north on the Penrith side, the impact to neighbouring residential properties would be reduced. Once the specific opportunities associated with the redevelopment site have been confirmed, the interface with the site would be addressed as part of the detailed design stage.

Next steps

Following receipt of community feedback on the KI Studio bridge design, RMS will finalise the detailed design of the bridge. A review of environmental factors will be prepared prior to construction starting in 2014.



For further enquires

Please contact: RMS Community Engagement via email nepeanbridge@rms.nsw.gov.au or phone **1800 822 486**.



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