Monday 1 June 2015

$7.8 MILLION BRIDGES FOR THE BUSH PROJECT TO RESTORE CARRATHOOL BRIDGE COMPLETED

A $7.8 million project to restore the Carrathool Road Bridge across the Murrumbidgee River is complete, providing motorists with a stronger bridge capable of handling wider and heavier loads.

Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Roads Andrew Gee said the project started in February 2012 to improve the historic one-lane bridge, which is a rare combination of an Allan truss and a Bascule lift span and was built in 1922.

“This project was part of the NSW Government’s Bridges for the Bush program,” Mr Gee said.

“With work now complete, the temporary width restriction has been removed and the bridge is now four metres wide.

“The bridge has also been strengthened to withstand 62.5 tonne loads, an improvement on the previous 42.5 tonne capacity.

“Work on the State heritage registered bridge involved replacing one support structure, restoring, strengthening and painting the liftspan in heritage colours, and replacing the entire deck and elements of the timber truss to improve safety for motorists, pedestrians and cattle crossing the bridge.

“Roads and Maritime used its own carpenters with specialist skills in timber bridge construction to complete the work,” Mr Gee said.

“The northern bridge support was replaced and the southern support repaired and a new traffic safety barrier installed. The approaches to the bridge were also rebuilt.”

Mr Gee added that a flood in March 2012 delayed work, but the community has been supportive and patient during the project, with multiple bridge closures required to safely carry out work.

“The Carrathool community was helpful in nominating closure dates and adjusting their travel, while school children were required to walk across the bridge during closures to ensure they got to school,” Mr Gee said.

“Roads and Maritime would like to thank the local community for its help and feedback with closures and work which continued through multiple harvests and cattle movements.

“Because the bridge is an older heritage bridge, routine maintenance will continue as required, with regular inspections carried out.”

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