MEDIA RELEASE

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HISTORIC MORPETH BRIDGE MAINTENANCE WORK STARTS

Roads and Maritime Services have started major maintenance work on Morpeth Bridge at Morpeth to maintain capacity and reduce long term maintenance costs.

Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter, Scot MacDonald MLC said the NSW Government has provided $1 million in 2015-16 for this work on the timber truss bridge which spans the Hunter River.

“The bridge is listed on the state heritage register as nationally significant, primarily on the basis of its technical and historical characteristics,” Mr MacDonald said.

“Roads and Maritime has developed a new maintenance technique where temporary supports will be installed under Morpeth Bridge to enable most of the maintenance work to be carried out from a barge under the bridge.”

“Feedback from the community and stakeholders on the project and the proposed schedule of bridge closures was sought in November last year.”

“Roads and Maritime thanks all who provided input which will inform the final program of work including a limited number of bridge closures aimed at minimising disruption to the community. Once the timeline for bridge closures has been finalised, the community will be advised.”

Work will be carried out on weekdays between 7am and 4pm with the project expected to be completed in late December 2016, weather permitting.

Work to establish the site is planned to start on 1 February with changed traffic conditions expected to be in place from 8 February including single lane closures and reduced speed limits.

Motorists should plan their trip, allow extra travel time and follow the direction of traffic control and all signs.

For the latest traffic updates, you can call 132 701, visit livetraffic.com or download the Live Traffic NSW App.

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