COMMUNITY INVITED TO DISCUSS COONAMIT BRIDGE CLOSURES

John Williams The Nationals Member for Murray-Darling today invited the community to a public meeting next week to discuss the temporary closure of Coonamit Bridge as part of major restoration work.

"Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) is carrying out a $10 million upgrade of the bridge over the Wakool River to strengthen its structure and improve its load carrying capacity," Mr Williams said.

"The next stage of work would include replacing the timber deck with a new concrete deck, requiring a full closure of the bridge.

"RMS is considering three preferred closure options and wants to discuss these with the community.

"The first option involves starting work in early November for six weeks, stopping for Christmas during which time the bridge will reopen and then restarting work in mid-January for eight weeks.

"The second option involves work starting in mid-January 2013 for about 10 weeks, while the third option has RMS starting work in mid-January 2013 for six weeks, with a possible break subject to community feedback, before continuing for about eight weeks.

"During the work traffic will be diverted onto the nearby bypass bridge once it is no longer under water.

"If the bypass is not able to be used, extended road closures and traffic detours will need to be implemented 24 hours a day, seven days week.

"RMS understands this would be of particular concern during harvest season," Mr Williams said.

Community members are invited to a public meeting on Wednesday 26 September at 7pm at the Moulamein Town Hall on Morago Street at Moulamein to provide comments and feedback on the proposed work schedule.

People unable to attend the meeting can still provide feedback by calling project manager, Syed Nowmani, on (02) 6938 1111 or emailing him at wagga.wagga.regional.office@rms.nsw.gov.au. Comments should be provided by 5pm Monday 24 September to be included in the public meeting discussions.

-ENDS-

Contact: John Williams 0438 808 722