Re: Preliminary geotechnical investigations – Nelligen Bridge

Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) is investigating options for the future of Nelligen Bridge over the Clyde River at Nelligen.

In 2011, RMS identified deterioration of the reinforced concrete piles under the bridge during routine inspections. Structural engineers have assessed the strength of the bridge and found it is still able to safely carry normal highway loads, but will deteriorate over time.

It is expected that the bridge will require significant future maintenance. RMS has not made any decision on whether replacement or maintenance is the preferred option.

RMS will this month start geotechnical investigations to collect information about ground conditions around the bridge. This will require five boreholes to be drilled on the upstream side of the existing bridge:
- Three boreholes to be drilled from a barge over the water.
- One borehole located on the eastern embankment.
- One borehole located on the western embankment.

Work will be done from 7am to 6pm Monday to Friday and 8am to 4pm, Saturday and Sunday. Marine traffic will still be able to pass under the bridge. The work will create some noise and every attempt will be made to minimise the effect this work may have on residents. It will be carried out in line with RMS' Environmental Noise Manual. RMS apologises for any inconvenience caused by the work.

The results of the geotechnical investigations will inform a preliminary concept design for a new bridge. This will be used to develop a strategic cost estimate to determine if a new bridge is financially viable compared to maintenance. There is no funding available at this time for construction of a new bridge.

RMS recognises the importance of addressing other factors such as social, environmental and engineering while planning for the future of the bridge.

We will consult with local residents, businesses and other stakeholders before making any major decisions.

For further information or to discuss this project, please contact me on 4221 2718 or via email at kurt.bridde@rms.nsw.gov.au.

Yours faithfully

Kurt Bridde
Project Manager