

APRIL 2015

## Replacement of Gee Gee Bridge

Roads and Maritime Services is planning to build a new bridge over the Wakool River on the Swan Hill to Deniliquin Road, 37km east of Swan Hill. The project is part of the NSW Government's Bridges for the Bush program, which aims to improve freight productivity in regional areas.

### Background

Gee Gee Bridge was built in 1929. The bridge is a Dare type timber truss bridge and is listed on the State Heritage Register. It has a single traffic lane and vehicles give way to oncoming traffic.

The bridge has been identified for replacement under the Timber Truss Bridge Strategy, which was endorsed by the Heritage Council of NSW in August 2012.

Replacing the bridge with a concrete bridge will meet the current and future traffic demands, including semi-trailer and B-double vehicles being able to carry heavier loads.

Gee Gee Bridge is on the Swan Hill to Deniliquin Road (known locally as Noorong Road) which links Deniliquin in NSW and Swan Hill in Victoria. The route has been identified as a strategic freight route in NSW. It is also an alternative freight route between Wagga Wagga and Swan Hill. The bridge is on a B-double route but can only carry loads up to 42.5 tonne. The tonne capacity for B-doubles is 62.5 tonne.

### The project

Wakool Shire Council, on behalf of Roads and Maritime, is managing this project. The bridge would become a council asset when it is finished.

The new bridge would be a 9 metre wide, two lane concrete structure to cater for farm machinery and B doubles with heavy loads.

As a separate activity, Roads and Maritime is working to get approval to demolish the existing bridge.

### Benefits

- Improve traffic efficiency and higher freight vehicle capacity by providing a two lane, concrete bridge.
- Meet the needs of local farmers to move wide machinery across the river.
- Reduce disruptions to road users by eliminating long term maintenance work on the old timber bridge.

For further enquiries: Wakool Shire Council Project Manager, Craig Maffescioni

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## What is happening now?

Roads and Maritime and council have started planning for a new bridge. This planning involves choosing a location, completing bridge designs and carrying out environmental assessment. It is likely the bridge would be built next to the existing bridge as it provides the most direct route across the river and has minimal environmental impact.

## What happens next?

Once planning is finished, the project approved and funding confirmed, the tender for construction would be advertised and a contract awarded. The planning and tender process is expected to continue until the end of 2015.

## Keeping you informed

Roads and Maritime will provide information about the project as planning continues. The environmental assessment will be made available on our website when it is finished in mid 2015.

If you would like to know more about the project, please contact Wakool Shire Council project manager Craig Maffescioni on 03 5887 5007.

## Future maintenance work on the existing bridge?

Maintenance work will need to continue on the existing bridge to ensure it continues to service the area. Roads and Maritime will provide advice on impacts to traffic from bridge maintenance as required. No work is currently planned.



**Gee Gee Bridge was built in 1929 and is a Dare type timber truss bridge.**