

# Colemans Bridge – Frequently asked questions

Roads and Maritime Services– July 2019

## What is being proposed?

Roads and Maritime Services proposes to carry out bridge strengthening and maintenance on Colemans Bridge over Leycester Creek, Lismore.

The heritage-listed bridge is a critical link in the road infrastructure of the Lismore area, and in combination with Fawcett Bridge provides an important link between the Lismore CBD and South Lismore.

The proposed maintenance work for the bridge includes:

- Re-stressing of the stress laminated timber (SLT) deck
- Strengthening the top chord of the dare trusses by upgrading the lateral braces
- Replacing the existing traffic barrier
- Repairing the bridge road surface
- Repairing walkways, including repainting the handrails
- Repainting of the bridge truss with hand tools to protect the timber whilst restoring the appropriate heritage bridge colour scheme (steel elements black, timber elements white).

## What traffic impacts will there be during construction?

To allow for the work to be carried out, we are proposing to close the bridge on up to 16 weekends during the eight-month project. The community would be informed in advance. The proposed hours for the weekend closures are **6pm Friday to 6pm Sunday**. Noisy work would be planned from 7am to 5pm during the weekend closures. Under this proposal there would also be the need for occasional bridge closures on Mondays. The community would be informed in advance. One of the walkways would be kept open for pedestrian access throughout the project. To help minimise impacts associated with any closure, we have been discussing the proposal for some time with nearby businesses, Lismore City Council and other potentially impacted stakeholders.

## How will this project reduce the need for ongoing maintenance on the bridge?

The work will maintain the structural capacity of the bridge, keeping it serviceable into the future. Repainting the truss and walkway will also protect it against corrosion.

Ongoing maintenance of the bridge will still be required, but the frequency of the maintenance activities will be greatly reduced.

## Is the bridge load limit being increased?

No.

### **What plans will be in place if there is a flood during the bridge closure?**

We have and will continue to work closely with the State Emergency Service, Lismore City Council Local Emergency Management officer and other emergency service providers for the duration of this project.

We will develop a comprehensive flood management plan as part of developing the project. The plan will outline strategies and contingency plans to be implemented when a flood warning is issued.

### **How long will the project take to complete?**

The project is expected to start in the second half of 2019 and will take about eight months to complete.

### **Will there be maritime impacts?**

While there will be minimal boating impacts to the community, we will work closely with Maritime to communicate any impacts to the community well in advance.

### **Why isn't the bridge being replaced?**

The work is required to keep the bridge in shape to provide ongoing service. The longer-term future of this bridge will be considered in accordance with future maintenance strategies and transport planning and priorities.

Colemans Bridge, which was built in 1908, is of State heritage significance and is a rare and representative example of a Dare-type truss bridge. The bridge also exhibits less common features of Dare-type truss bridges, including central iron piers, which combined with having two-lanes, footways, and long spans, represents a level of technical significance according to heritage listing descriptions.



If you need help understanding this information, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 and ask them to call us on 6642 9941