Community Update
Toolamba Bridge | 2 March 2017

Information for residents

Background

Following a routine inspection and subsequent detailed inspections of the Toolamba Bridge, the bridge was closed for safety reasons.

The inspections revealed numerous structural and non-compliant issues with the 100 year old bridge impacting on its load capacity and safety.

Council Officers held a Community Information Session at the Toolamba Community Centre on 30 January 2017. Following this session an update flyer was circulated to the community via letterbox drop. A copy of this flyer can be obtained from Greater Shepparton City Council’s website.

This flyer provides a further update on the status of the bridge and the works being undertaken to reopen the bridge as quickly as possible.

Community Update

Council Officers have commenced with the temporary works required to reopen the bridge until the more substantive rehabilitation works can be undertaken.

These temporary works have required the sourcing of approximately 390 linear metres of hardwood decking which is scheduled to arrive in Shepparton in the week commencing 6 March 2017.

In preparation for the arrival of the decking timber, Council staff have commenced stripping back the old timber decking to enable the replacement of the timber end beams and reinforcement of the bridge abutments.

These temporary works will also include the installation of bollards for the full length of the bridge to reduce the trafficable lane width.

At the time of preparing this update, the temporary works are on track for the bridge to be re-opened under a reduced 2 tonne load limit in mid-April 2017.

This reduced load limit will remain in place until the more substantive bridge rehabilitation works are undertaken.
Where to from here?

It is intended that more permanent bridge rehabilitation works will be undertaken in the 2017/18 financial year to replace the failed and deteriorated components of the bridge and bring the bridge to a more acceptable and safe standard.

A longer term solution will also be considered by Council, which may require the construction of a new bridge by 2027. A new Toolamba Bridge is listed in the Council 10 Year Capital Works Plan. It is intended that design work for a new bridge will take place over the next 3 to 5 years. The construction of a new bridge will be subject to receiving Government funding.

Greater Shepparton City Council takes this opportunity to remind residents that it is critical to abide by the revised traffic conditions of the bridge and to report anyone failing to adhere to those limits to the Victoria Police.

For further updates on the bridge please sign up for email updates at www.greatershepparton.vic.gov.au or follow Council’s Facebook page.