



GREATER  
SHEPPARTON

# Community Update

## Toolamba Bridge | 30 January 2017

### Information for residents

#### Background

Toolamba Bridge is a single span timber bridge 80m long, 12m high, and 3.6m wide. Located on Bridge Road Toolamba, the bridge is a crossing point of the Goulburn River. Council's last traffic count on Bridge Road identified approximately 500 vehicles per day. The bridge was originally constructed in 1891. The age of the current bridge is approximately 60 to 70 years, with the bridge originally constructed to last 50 years.

The bridge was closed late December 2016 due to the failure of a number of decking planks from termite damage.

#### Further Investigation

Following the recent closure of the Bridge, a Level 3 Bridge inspection was carried out on 19 December 2016. A cost estimate to

repair or replace the bridge was provided to Council. The cost to replace the bridge in its current location would be approximately \$3,194,100. It is unlikely that the existing bridge could be demolished due to its heritage listing so a second bridge would need to be constructed requiring a realignment of the road. This would add more cost to a project to replace the existing bridge above the estimate provided to Council.

The second option is to undertake repair works to a value of \$350,902. Given the availability of capital funds, this is seen as the most viable option in the short to medium term. An investment of \$350K will extend the useful life of the bridge to between 10 and 15 years. Once again this estimate has not considered the full impact of heritage listing and this figure could be closer to the \$572,000 quote Council received when it last tendered



# Community Update

Toolamba Bridge | 30 January 2017

Information for residents

the work in 14/15.

Council has commenced to remove the asphalt seal that was placed over the timber deck in 2006 to reveal the full extent of termite damage to decking timbers. It is estimated that this task, and the replacement of up to 90 metres of decking timber, will cost in the order of \$30,000 to \$50,000 and will see the bridge opened in the short term while a tender process is undertaken to repair the bridge later in 2017.

Supply of iron bark or other suitable hardwood decking planks is proving difficult and it could be 2 months before we have the materials available to complete the short term works.



## Conclusion

Council must address the short term service impact of closing Toolamba Bridge which has 500 vehicles per day. Council is not in a position to renew the bridge and this process would take several years in planning, design and construction.

The best option in the short term is to make good the termite damaged decking, seek engineering clearance to re-open the bridge immediately, and tender out repair works for delivery later in 2017 to gain another 10-15 years of bridge life.

