



**BOURKE
SHIRE
COUNCIL**

MEDIA RELEASE

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Deconstruction of Timber Approaches – North Bourke Bridge

Bourke Shire Council at its meeting held on Monday 28 October 2024 resolved to accept the tender submitted by Delany Civil Pty Ltd, for the deconstruction of the timber approaches to the North Bourke Bridge in the amount of \$413,120.83 (inc GST).

Mayor of Bourke Shire, Councillor Lachlan Ford said Council's decision to deconstruct the timber approaches was a result of a comprehensive inspection by expert bridge engineers who deemed that the current condition of the timber approaches to the bridge posed a major safety hazard to the public.

“The level of decay to the timber approaches to the bridge, is not a new issue, with public access to the northern and southern approaches to the bridge barricaded off in 2015 and 2016, respectively.” the Mayor said.

As a result of the hazards to the public and the heavily deteriorated condition of the timber approach spans, the advice to Council was that the timber approach spans should be demolished as early as practicable.

In addition to preparing the necessary tender documentation, Council undertook a comprehensive environmental assessment of the deconstruction proposal by developing a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) document to assess any potential significant environmental impacts expected as part of the deconstruction proposal.

“Council reviewed and adopted this REF at its July 2024 Council Meeting and a copy is available for interested parties on the NSW Planning Portal,” Councillor Ford noted.

He continued, “Council has also been working with NSW Public Works and their expert bridge consultants to develop documentation and costings for the restoration of the bridge and the provision of replacement concrete or

steel approaches (approx. 3- 4m wide), with a view to Council actively seeking grant funding for the next phase of this major community project.”

As part of the work to document the restoration of the bridge, the wrought iron structure was comprehensively inspected, including divers examining the underwater steel piers of the bridge.”

“Whilst the condition of the 5 timber spans on the east side of the bridge structure and the 10 spans on the west side of the bridge is such that many of the spans have no structural integrity remaining, the actual wrought iron bridge is in an excellent condition for its 140-year age, which is most pleasing,” the Mayor said.

The Mayor noted that Council had received funding of \$400,000 under the Local Government Recovery Grant – NSW Severe Weather and Flood Grants - for the demolition of the timber approaches along with a further \$400,000 grant from Transport for NSW for the restoration design works.

With their head office in Bella Vista in north western Sydney, Delany Civil Pty Ltd is well versed and experienced in the field of bridge deconstruction with works expected to be completed by year's end.

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