

**Title** Kirwans Bridge Community Panel Minutes from meeting #7

**Date:** Wednesday 17 November 2022 – 7pm

**Venue:** Regatta Centre

**Attendees:** Bob Arnold, Des Mason, Darren Lyons (Chairman), Paul List, Gordon Akers,

**Councillors:** Cr Dave Andrews, Reg Dickinson

**Council staff:** Vlad Adamek, Director Sustainable Infrastructure, Amanda Tingay, Director Community & Planning, Merrill Boyd, Communications and Engagement Officer.

**Apologies:** Ms Robyn Taylor, Milton Hammond

Time	Item	Responsibility
7.00pm	Acknowledgement to Country	Merrill Boyd
7.06pm	Chairman's welcome and introductions of the panel and SSC staff. Darren read Robyn Taylor's email to the him and cc to the CEO. He advised the panel of his reply to Robyn and Amanda Tingay summarised Julie Salomon's reply to Robyn on matters directed at the Council in the email. The email communications were tabled.	Darren Lyons
7.10pm	Report from Nagambie Police	Sergeant Bob Derrett & Sergeant Sharon Beaumont
	The police reported that it was impossible to gauge if a vehicle was over the tare limit – except when it was a vehicle that had a registered tare limit. They explained that it was difficult to prosecute in a court unless it was beyond reasonable doubt that the vehicle was overweight. The only thing locals could do was take the numberplate of a heavy vehicle. The police said that it might be better to have more permanent signage along the roads leading to the bridge	

	highlighting the weight limit. This should also include good turnaround areas.	
7.25pm	<p>Councillor Reg Dickinson addressed the panel saying that with several panel members having left the district that the panel was not as representative as it had been at the beginning.</p> <p>Discussions ensued and it was agreed that we would welcome new members who expressed their EOI on our Share Strathbogie website.</p> <p>The Terms of Reference only indicated that up to 15 members could be appointed.</p>	Cr Reg Dickinson
7.25pm	<p>The Director advised that tenders for the engineering reporting on the two options on the bridge had closed yesterday and there had been good interest. When they have been opened, he will advise the Chairman of how many tenders were received.</p> <p>JLT the Council insurers were currently assessing the bridge following the flood. Stringers had banged against the bridge and a pontoon was pushing on the bridge.</p> <p>There is a ladder attached to the bridge which will be taken down by Paul List and the pontoon removed because the bridge is CLOSED.</p> <p>It is going to take quite some time to assess and regrettably the bridge will remain closed until we have that report. The bridge is deemed unsafe.</p> <p>Whether we can open it up depends on its condition. There will be no commitment on the tender until we have the insurance assessment. The Director advised he will report back to the Panel once the tenders have been properly assessed and the insurance assessment is also completed. Hopeful to be before the end of January and will aim to reconvene the next Panel meeting by then also. The findings will see if we have a silver lining the Director said.</p>	Vlad Adamek

	<p><b>Weir Road</b></p> <p>Weir road was supposed to start in October, but we have found that following the flood we will have to lift that road higher – it is expected to be completed by June/July next year. We have also had issues with trees and cultural heritage.</p> <p>Throughout the upgrade Weir Road is expected to be open for local access. Yes, access will be available for local traffic.</p> <p>The funding is there but the contract awarded has had to have variations to its specifications.</p> <p>Will the culverts be solid enough to take B Doubles – we will investigate that.</p> <p>The bridge being closed does not impact the timeline of the completion of Weir Road.</p> <p>We will seek funding from State flood recovery and the Director will investigate Regional Renewal funding.</p>	
	<p>Director's update on the waterways. Opening of the water ways will begin in sections from 25 November.</p> <p>Lake Nagambie – underwater surveys have indicated that there are seven objects submerged and there is unknown debris from the caravan park. An assessment of the river will occur when it is safe to do so. Is also a large tree currently under or near Chinaman's Bridge</p> <p>Can the insurers inspect the Bridge with the river closed? Yes, Council can give them permission to use the waterways.</p> <p>Hughes Creek (Goulburn River), Lake Nagambie to Goulburn Weir – closure to the Weir communications out – water quality not that good (swimming is not advised on Lake Nagambie). EPA doing regular E-Coli testing.</p> <p>Mobile Flood Recovery Road show expected to also visit Kirwans Bridge before Christmas.</p>	Amanda Tingay

8.40pm	Meeting Closed	
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**Actions from the meeting;**

1. Chairman to send an email/phone each candidate for the Euroa electorate saying we are looking for funding for Kirwans Bridge.
  - a. M to supply email and phone addresses of candidates - **Completed**
2. Prepare communications in the form of a letterbox drop to all Kirwans Bridge residents regarding tonight's meeting, informing them of the bridge closure and uncertainties around its reopening, Weir Road and the upcoming flood recovery road show and including a call for expressions of interest to join the panel to bolster those that have relocated and resigned. This to be completed within 10 days.
3. A QR code to be on the letter drop which takes the receiver to Share Strathbogie to register their expression of interest to bolster the panel numbers because of several resignations due to relocation. Members of the current panel to make the final call on the new panel members.
4. Prepare a media release to Community Voice soonest and SSC website in relation to this meeting. **Completed**
5. Investigate the development of signage to be along Lobbs Lane/Kirwans Bridge Road and Cnr McLoed Street/Goulburn Weir- Murchison Rd advising the restricted tare limit on the bridge – these signs to be in an area where it is possible to make a reverse turn.