

Doc ID# 848976

Title Kirwans Bridge Community Panel #9

Date: 7pm – Tuesday 28 March 2023

Venue: Regatta Centre Nagambie

Attendees: Darren Lyons (Chairman) Bob Arnold, Des Mason, Robyn Taylor, Paul List, Milton Taylor, Shane Anderson, Darren Ough, Jacquie Anton, Nicole Wharton, Wayne Gammon, Helen McCurdy, Mark Charlton, Renae Costantini, Maggie Zaki

Councillors: Cr Dave Andrews, Cr Reg Dickinson

Council staff: Julie Salomon CEO, Kristin Favaloro Executive Manager Communications and Engagement, Merrill Boyd Engagement and Communications Officer

Absent:

Time	Item	Responsibility
7pm	Acknowledgement to Country	MB
	Welcome Darren welcomed Renae and Mark to their first meeting. He advised that Gordon Akers had resigned from the Panel, and he had thanked him for his contribution on behalf of the panel. He also advised that he had spoken to Robert De Fazio and Michael Greenaway who were listed members of the panel but had been unable to physically attend meetings so, their membership had lapsed. They will be kept informed of the progress of the panel as a courtesy.	DL
	Update on current bridge closure (insurance) Julie explained the process the Shire has been through with their insurers and the delay in releasing the report. She then read the four conclusions the insurance company's engineering group FMG reported in their 24-page report. (The report and FAQs were provided later to Panel members). Before the bridge was closed due to the flood the Shire had contracted JJ Ryan to design and cost the two options agreed by the panel for its future.	JS

	<p>It was noted that community members had released the build-up of timber under the bridge from the flood. It was also noted that members of the Panel requested that the JJ Ryan scope be amended to include a recommendation on works needed in the short term to reopen the bridge. There were many questions from the Panel members that required answering and can be found as Actions below.</p>	
	<p>Weir Road update Council acknowledged that Weir Road is the only viable travel option in the short term with the bridge closed. The tender to seal the road was awarded before the flood and Council has now made variations to the tender which include raising the level of the road above any future flooding event. Questions regarding grading frequency and signage are answered below. Yes, the funding for Weir Road is assured. The culverts are a concern with B-doubles using Weir Road. The Cultural Heritage Management Plan has been completed for these road works. It was made clear that the closure of the bridge and the upgrade of Weir Road are not dependent on each other. Weir Road will be constructed in sections to enable continual traffic flow. Flood money has a time limit on it – any money set aside for the bridge will be for the bridge alone. The Chairman sort a show of hands as to which construction/timing option the panel members would prefer but this was deferred until the options were available for consideration. Panel members would receive the Agenda for the Extraordinary Council meeting on 4 April when they were uploaded to the website. (This meeting has since been rescheduled for 11 April to provide more time for input from the community to Councillors.)</p>	JS
	<p>General business Council is still looking for clarity on the ownership responsibility of Chinamans Bridge with the State Government, however, Council took responsibility for Kirwans Bridge many years ago. The CEO and Vlad Adamek will represent the Shire in the negotiations with the Insurance company regarding compensation.</p>	

	Advice was given that a Kirwans Bridge Action Group would be meeting on 1 April 2023 and some members of the Panel would be attending. The CEO was requested to attend the next panel meetings.	
	Meeting closed 9.04pm	

Actions and questions taken on notice

1. The signs on Kirwans Bridge are in the wrong place – they are between 18 and 19 and they should be between 17 and 18.

The signs have been repositioned.

2. When did the Council take out insurance cover on Kirwans Bridge?

Officers have reviewed our insurance cover back to 2015 and this indicates that the bridge formed part of Council's insured assets. We have not gone back further unless this is an issue of significant importance to the panel members. Unfortunately, we cannot speak to previous advice that has been provided to the community regarding insurance, other than to assure you that at this point in time, the bridge is insured.

3. Send Extraordinary Council agenda paper link to Panel on Friday.

Link was sent to Panel members on Friday 31 July.

4. Is the road graded every two weeks – some said it was six weeks between and if it is dry the road needs to be watered more regularly.

The Panel also asked if the project was delayed whether Weir Road could be graded once a week and if the road can be watered during dry periods.

Officers are recommending that as part of the project cost, Council will hire a grader to be stationed at Weir Road to provide for fortnightly grading until the roadworks commence in the Spring – this is subject to the Council resolution at the 11 April Extraordinary meeting.

It is proposed that a water cart will form part of the grader hire and therefore can be used to dampen down any dust as part of the fortnightly grading of the road.

5. The speed limit on Weir Road needs to be enforced – not with signs that are taken away but VMS boards that cannot be stolen.

We can install VMS boards in addition to existing signage to display critical information relating to road safety and as far as enforcing the speed limit this is an action for Victoria Police.

In relation to the tonnage limit question (ie B-Doubles) we will look into this matter further to see if temporary load limits can be placed on the road until such time that it is sealed.

6. What roads are the Shire responsible for? Weir Road, Kettles Road, Goulburn Weir Road (or where does Vic Roads end on this one) McLeod Street and Hudson Road.

All roads listed above are roads on the Council Road Register as per link below. There are no Vic Roads.

[Public Roads Register Aug18.pdf \(strathbogie.vic.gov.au\)](#)

7. Re Weir Road – can you clarify the dates social media announced the tender - was there a notification on 5 November (post floods)?

The 5 November post was provided as an update, rather than an announcement that the tender had been awarded. We apologise if this created confusion.

8. Can the Community get an independent engineering assessment on the Bridge. Would that likely be acceptable to the insurer?

Council officers have contacted our insurers who have advised that this is not an option.

9. Is there further tree removal required for the Weir Rd upgrade.

No. The Cultural Heritage Management Plan has been completed for these road works.

10. The GMR report was again discussed. Kristin stated the paragraph in that report (which says “**we advise that there is risk of the main structure collapsing into the waterway**”) was inadvertently copied from the Chinamans Bridge report. For good

order can we please get a response to the Chairman's prior email dated 10 March 2023.

As stated at Tuesday's night's meeting – this report contained a significant number of inconsistencies, which had been carried over from the report on Chinamans Bridge. We understand “**we advise that there is risk of the main structure collapsing into the waterway**” is referring to Chinamans Bridge. Unfortunately, after significant back and forth this reference to Chinamans Bridge has not been removed by the consultant.