

Kirwans Bridge Advocacy Group meeting**Wednesday November 22, 2023 | 7pm**

Attendees: Darren Lyons (Chairman) Bob Arnold, Des Mason, Robyn Taylor, Milton Hammond, Jacquie Anton, Wayne Gammon, Helen McCurdy, Bob McCurdy, Sue Barlow, Lenny and Paul Lancaster.

Council staff: Julie Salomon CEO, John Harvey Sustainable Infrastructure, Merrill Boyd Communications and Engagement Advisor

Apologies: Kerri Bradshaw, Nicole Wharton, Kristin Favaloro Executive Manager Communications and Engagement

Item	Agenda Item	Responsible
1	Acknowledgement to Country	MB
2	<p>Kirwans Bridge Community Panel Chairman Darren Lyons welcomed the attendees and expressed his desire to stand down as Chairman now that the Panel's role was complete. He would stay involved with whatever eventuates with the Kirwans Bridge Advocacy group.</p> <p>His resignation was accepted knowing that the Advocacy group could choose a chairman if required. Darren was thanked for his years of leadership of the Community Panel.</p> <p>Darren expressed his dismay in the conduct of the Councillors at November Council meeting and wanted to make sure that the Kirwans Bridge issue did not get lost, and the progress made so far, kept it on track for resolution, whatever the outcome from the Local Government Minister.</p>	DL
3	<p>CEO Julie Salomon assured Darren that Kirwans Bridge was one of the four projects given executive priority at the weekly executive meetings.</p> <p>Robyn commented that often when councils were under administration good decisions were made.</p> <p>Julie assured the group that it would be business as usual for staff and the Minister had three options to choose from for Strathbogie's future governance.</p>	

Minutes

John Harvey addressed the JJRyan report and the options and discussed the most suitable tonnage.

The group were advised that Council would not be receiving any insurance except for recuperating the costing of all the inspections associated with the flood. The insurer stated that the deterioration may have been accelerated by the flood, but it was not necessarily the result of the October flood.

In relation to the slow progress CEO said while it seems that nothing has happened in the fourteen months since the flood Julie advised council has requested funding from the Commonwealth, and we now have a comprehensive report to inform us what needs to be done.

What level of service do we want the structure to provide? Is it 6, 3 tonne or 15 tonne limit?

Currently the report says the bridge cannot support any more than 1.5 tonne.

The independent advice on the piles is that they are in reasonable order for 6 tonne – there is the need to replace 16 piles – refurbish the top section of another 32 piles by maybe using an epoxy product.

How long do you think it will take to get the \$3m? This is unknown, JH estimated that it will take around 12 months to negotiate with Heritage Victoria with detailed design and their approval system before we do any work on the structure. It could be estimated the closure would probably still be two years from the date we receive the funding.

Regarding the asphalt breaking down and ending up in the water – GMW and GBCMA are not concerned however, we will be conscious of this when undertaken the repairs.

Currently we are preparing the 2024 Capital Budget and looking to advance the Kirwans Bridge permits because council is serious about the rehabilitation of the bridge structure.

We are working with DEECA and the State Government to find the funding for Chinamans Bridge repair and this will come before Kirwans Bridge because without its repair the Goulburn River is closed to access.

The council is undertaking some aerial drone footage of Chinamans Bridge for the heritage permit for the bridge, and we will ask at the same time for footage of Kirwans Bridge as well.

Weir Road

We have the design back following the road safety audit – but there were still concerns expressed regarding the stop sign at Nagambie/Rushworth Road.

Concerns were also expressed re Hudson, Richards, Reedy Creek Road and the Weir Road intersection.

Clarification was sort on the instructions given for the safety audit? CAF expressed concerns.

JH committed to meet with those individuals interested and go through the designs again. (Date set 22 December 2023).

Minutes

	<p>Strathbogie council is committed to sealing Weir Road and in the meantime will keep the grading up. JH to follow up.</p> <p>At the February council meeting the revised plans will go up to the Administrator.</p> <p>In relation to why Weir Road is not a dual lane JH explained by way of diagrams.</p> <p>The traffic count is correct for the standard traffic count – although the June count may see the volume down as people were not travelling.</p> <p>Will the plans be available possible in IT land even though they are a large file? JH (already on the Kirwans Bridge Share Strathbogie site.)</p> <p>JH will review what the traffic audit entailed.</p> <p>Consideration should be given to the fact that once it is sealed there will be more traffic using Weir Road.</p> <p>The funds are available for the road works when we have agreed on the design.</p> <p>We would like to start before Christmas but this is looking a little shaky so the expectations will be the new year.</p> <p>There are 37 trees identified in the road safety audit – but we must identify those that are directly impacted within the permit.</p> <p>We did remove some trees earlier and this was contentious.</p> <p>Most of the tree impact is associated with the physical constraints of the road. All other trees shall be protected by barrier.</p> <p>JH provided a visual explanation of the road surface, culverts, and trees in Weir Road.</p>	
4	<p>Presentation</p> <p>Julie presented a PowerPoint presentation of the outcomes from the Advocacy workshop and sort interest from the group as to who would assist with the Advocacy.</p> <p>Robyn and Sue are keen to continue the push for funding.</p>	
5	<p>Other business</p> <p>Bob Arnold resigned from further Kirwans Bridge groups, and he was thanked for his commitment to the years of discussions leading to the Options paper. (Noted Bob did not vote for either option.)</p>	
6	Meeting closed at 9.10pm	