

Friday 16 July 2021

## **Kirwans Bridge Community Panel gathering knowledge**

Discussion around the future of Kirwans Bridge are being undertaken by Community Panel members who nominated to share their knowledge with the Strathbogie Council.

Expressions of interest were received from 12 people to join the Community Panel to facilitate community involvement in discussions regarding the bridge's future.

It was a way of capturing local knowledge, concerns and opportunities so that Council could plan a future for Kirwans Bridge.

In the two meetings that have been held the group nominated Darren Lyons to Chair the meetings and already they have had an informative discussion with a senior manager from Heritage Victoria.

"Interest is high from residents on the east and the west of Kirwans Bridge as well as those who use Kirwans Bridge as a travel or work route to Murchison or Rochester and beyond," Mr Lyons said.

"The group is interested in discussing the structure of the bridge with retired bridge engineer Peter Yttrup who was a consultant employed by the Kirwans Bridge Action Group back in 2010-11 when the bridge was closed for some time.

"We are all interested along with the Council staff in pursuing the options and ideas, but we are looking for a firm direction and timeframe to take back to the community of Nagambie. The Bridge remains a vital link for residents, travellers, farmers, tourists and emergency service vehicles".

The panel will work with Council to decide the historic bridge's future especially since in March the load limit was lowered from six to three tonnes.

Strathbogie Shire Council Mayor Cr Chris Raeburn said Council was working hard to improve its community engagement.

"The Kirwans Bridge panel is a great opportunity for Council to make decisions with our community," Cr Raeburn said.

"Bringing the community into our planning will ensure we're making better decisions for all Strathbogie Shire residents."

## **Release ends.**

For more information on this media release:

Kristin Favaloro

E: [Kristin.favaloro@strathbogie.vic.gov.au](mailto:Kristin.favaloro@strathbogie.vic.gov.au)

P: 0438 670 762