



MEDIA RELEASE: TUESDAY, 20 NOVEMBER, 2018

Transit lane under Chinamans Bridge for public safety

A transit lane has been created on the Goulburn River under Chinamans Bridge in Nagambie to guide vessels under the steel span of the bridge.

Strathbogie Shire Mayor and Chair of the Nagambie Waterways Advisory Committee Amanda McClaren said the transit lane has been put in place to address public safety concerns associated with the deterioration of the bridge.

“Council is urging waterways users to utilise the lane designated by the floating buoys and act with caution when travelling near the bridge,” Cr McClaren said.

The deterioration of the bridge has been worsened by vandalism, including the apparent scavenging of timber elements for firewood.

Opened in 1891, Chinamans Bridge is one of Victoria's oldest surviving timber road bridges, and one of very few surviving examples built prior to 1901.

In 1989, following realignment of the Nagambie- Heathcote Road onto a new replacement bridge, the original bridge was closed to traffic and pedestrians. Since then the structure has received minimal maintenance.

Council, VicRoads and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) are working closely with Heritage Victoria to address the short-term issues associated with the structure of the bridge and finding a long-term solution.

Council will be requesting a permit exemption from Heritage Victoria to undertake the following interim works:

- Removal of handrails;
- Stabilisation of the steel beams to prevent them rolling into the river; and
- Removal of decking material from the steel span of the bridge to prevent debris falling into the river

Council will provide ongoing updates on interim works and the status of the bridge.

If you would like further information, or have any questions or concerns, please contact Council Offices on 1800 065 993

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