

January 2024

FAQs - Kirwans Bridge update

Has Council been successful in obtaining funding to secure a long-term future for Kirwans Bridge?

Council is continuing its advocacy efforts to secure funding for a long-term future for Kirwans Bridge.

Council will apply to all relevant funding opportunities possible to seek State or Federal support for the bridge.

We know we will need funding from the Victorian and Federal governments to complete the extensive structural repairs and strengthening works needed to reopen the bridge, or to build a new one.

What was the outcome of the recent Growing Better Regions Fund expression of interest application?

Council submitted an expression of interest to the Growing Better Regions Fund in August 2023.

Council was notified in January, 2024 it would not be invited to progress to submit a full application.

Council is continuing to seek every funding opportunity possible to get State or Federal support for the bridge.

What is the status on Council's insurance claim on the bridge following the October 2022 flood event?

The Kirwans Bridge Community Panel was advised in November, 2023 that Council would not receive a significant payout, however we are still negotiating a final settlement.

When will Kirwans Bridge reopen?

The bridge will remain closed until funding is secured and works are complete. We want to ensure the bridge meets the need of the community for many, many years to come.

Working with the community panel, we have identified two options which would ensure the bridge remains open and is safe for the next 50 plus years:

Option 2.1: maintains the existing single lane bridge by undertaking a full renovation including replacing the decking with timber planks and steel girders. It has a 25-year lifespan and is estimated to cost about \$5.5 million.

Option 2.2: also maintains the existing single lane bridge by undertaking a full renovation and including replacing the timber decking with concrete deck slab. It has a 50-year lifespan and is estimated to cost about \$6.5 million.

Council will need funding from the Victorian and Federal governments to complete works to Kirwans Bridge. It means we need to continue to advocate strongly to share the importance of this bridge to the community and secure funding.

How can I help to seek funding for the future of the bridge?

Community support in our advocacy will help strengthen our efforts, meaning greater chance of success.

Community support in our advocacy will help strengthen our efforts, meaning greater chance of success. You can:

- write a message of support to potential funders on <https://share.strathbogie.vic.gov.au/kirwans-bridge-advocacy>
- email or send a letter to your local state and federal representatives, a list of potential contacts is below:
- A complete list of members for both state and federal Parliaments can be found at www.parliament.vic.gov.au and www.aph.gov.au

Below list with emails and address information:

Federal Government Ministers

- **The Hon Catherine King MP**
Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
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PO Box 719, Ballarat Vic 3353
- **The Hon Kristy McBain MP**
Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories
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PO Box 214, Queanbeyan NSW 2620
- **Senator the Hon Carol Brown**
Assistant Minister for Infrastructure and Transport
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- **Senator the Hon Anthony Chisholm**
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Federal members of Parliament and senators (non-Government)

- **Dr Helen Haines MP**
Member for Indi
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117 Murphy Street, Wangaratta Vic 3677
- **Mr Sam Birrell MP**
Member for Nicholls
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- **Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie**
Shadow Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development
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172 High Street, Wodonga Vic 3690
- **The Hon Darren Chester MP**
Shadow Minister for Regional Development Local Government and Territories The Nationals
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- **Mr Tony Pasin MP**
Shadow Assistant Minister for Infrastructure and Transport
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State Government Ministers

- **The Hon Melissa Horne MP**
Minister for Local Government
Minister for Roads and Road Safety
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101 Douglas Parade, Williamstown Vic 3016
- **The Hon Jaclyn Symes MLC**
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Attorney-General and Minister for Emergency Services
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Shop 1, 87 Sydney Street, Kilmore Vic 3764
- **The Hon Danny Pearson MP**
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PO Box 605, Moonee Ponds Vic 3039
- **The Hon Gayle Tierney MLC**
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State members of Parliament (non-Government)

- **Mrs Annabelle Cleeland**
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- **Mrs Gaelle Broad MLC**
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- **The Hon Wendy Lovell MLC**
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- **Ms Georgie Purcell MLC**
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- **Mrs Rikkie-Lee Tyrrell MLC**
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Pauline Hanson's One Nation
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5 Vaughan St, Shepparton Vic 3630
- **The Hon Peter Walsh MP**
Shadow Minister for Regional Development
Shadow Minister for Local Government
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- **Mr Danny O'Brien**
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