

THARWA BRIDGE NEWSLETTER

STATUS OF THARWA BRIDGE - MARCH 2008

On 4 December 2007 the ACT Government called on the community to express their views on the preservation of Tharwa Bridge. An overwhelming response from the community showed that retention of the existing bridge was desired. It was clear that the Canberra community placed a high value on the heritage of the existing Tharwa Bridge.

On 23 January 2008 Chief Minister Jon Stanhope announced that the ACT Government would retain the old Tharwa Bridge and would undertake remedial works to enable light traffic to use the bridge pending the full conservation works being completed.

The purpose of this newsletter is to update the Tharwa Community on the progress of the Tharwa Bridge since the announcement of its conservation.

Status of Tharwa Bridge

- Restoration of the bridge will cost approximately \$14 million in total, plus approximately \$100,000 per year in maintenance costs.
- Roads ACT and ACT Heritage are working together to ensure the heritage values of Tharwa Bridge are respected and not compromised by the proposed works.
- A staged approach to restoration has been implemented. Throughout the conservation process, the bridge will be closed to traffic for fixed periods of time but will continue to serve traffic with reduced load limits. When completed, the bridge will be able to hold a load of 44 tonnes which will take all general traffic.
- A contract has been let to undertake **Stage 1** remedial work on Tharwa Bridge. This work involves: the removal of the deteriorated timber trusses; the removal of the temporary steel bailey trusses; the installation of a temporary steel beam support across the full span of the bridge; and the installation of a safety rail.
- The contract work for **Stage 1** is 20 weeks, and it is expected that the bridge will be open to light traffic (10 tonne load limit restriction) by August 2008. The cost of these works is \$3 million.
- **Stage 2** works, which involves the conservation of the existing bridge, will follow this initial work and will take 3-4 years to complete. The timing of this will be influenced by the ability to access suitable hardwood timbers necessary to conserve the bridge.

Please visit the Territory and Municipal Services website www.tams.act.gov.au for updates during the restoration. If you would like to be kept informed of updates via email please contact communityengagement@act.gov.au

