



ACT Heritage Council

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

The ACT Heritage Council supports the Government's decision to launch a public consultation in order to seek the community's views about the conservation of the Tharwa Bridge.

The Tharwa Bridge is entered in the ACT Heritage Register. It is significant in relation to the ACT's history, and as the oldest surviving and largest ever built of the Allen truss bridges in Australia. It has great aesthetic appeal, and is a significant heritage icon in the ACT.

The Heritage Council is aware that a number of options have been considered by Roads ACT and the Government. The Heritage Council has fully considered all options that retain the current bridge and return it to road traffic use, and thereby hopefully avoid a substantial loss of the ACT's cultural heritage.

The Heritage Council believes that the conservation of the heritage values of the bridge would be best served by the continued use of the bridge for vehicular traffic. Consequently, it considers the two options which would allow a 44 tonne load capacity to be the best heritage outcome for the conservation of the Tharwa Bridge.

The Heritage Council believes that while there may be a cost premium on solutions that enable the retention of the current bridge, it believes that a premium is worth paying to retain a major heritage asset for the ACT community.

Finally, the Heritage Council would encourage all Canberreans to participate in the community consultation process and consider all available options. The details of the community consultation could be found on [www.tams.act.gov.au](http://www.tams.act.gov.au).

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