

BRIEFING PAPER – TIMBER BRIDGES

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1. The Facts

- **Kyogle Council manages a bridge inventory of 213 timber bridges and 129 concrete bridges**
- **90 timber bridges have been replaced with concrete culverts or steel and concrete bridges since 2004**
- **Replacement cost of timber bridges is \$50 million**
- **One bridge for every 30 Kyogle Council residents**
- **Australia wide average of one bridge for every 800 residents**
- **Over 70 timber bridges are over 50 years old**
- **12 bridges have load limits; this will increase**
- **One bridge on a regional road, Clarence Way south of the Bruxner Highway, closed to all traffic indefinitely this month**

2. Council's Strategy

- **Council recognises the economic importance of bridges particularly with respect to sustaining the vital economic drivers of the region such as the timber, dairy and livestock industries Council recognises the importance of bridges to the community and tourism providing connectivity between regions for work and recreation**
- **Timber bridge to concrete culvert replacements happening at a rate of 6 per year**
- **Overall replacement of 9 bridges per year**
- **In-house bridge design of composite steel and precast concrete bridge suitable for single and now multi-span bridges**
- **Council has developed the in-house expertise to carry out steel and concrete bridge construction on a cost competitive basis**
- **A review of road hierarchies and therefore bridge priorities is underway to take greater account of industry, safety, risk management, school bus routes and other economic drivers and not solely based on traffic volumes**

3. What is the Future

- **At the current replacement rate it will take 25 years to replace all timber bridges**
- **During this time more bridges will have load limits applied**
- **Some bridges may not be replaced**
- **Recently announced Federal government bridge funding program has the potential to have a major impact on Kyogle Council's bridge replacement program**
- **Council has some reserved funds which may be used to match any state or federal government funding**

4. What are the Limitations

- **Funding for replacement of timber bridges; need \$2.5 million per year to replace over 20 years or \$5 million per year to replace over 10 years. Council can only afford less than \$1 million per year**

5. Conclusion

- **Expect more load limits**
- **Expect more bridge closures**
- **A more strategic and all-inclusive approach to prioritisation of bridge replacement**
- **Need your help to lobby government for funding.**