

## М R E L Ε

Date: 17 March 2017

A new bridge on Duck Creek Road, Old Bonalbo, to be formally opened on 6 April, will provide a much needed economic boost for property owners living past the bridge.

The new bridge, which will be officially named McKees Bridge, replaces an old timber bridge built in 1929.

It will be opened by Member for Page, Mr Kevin Hogan, MP.

A 20-tonne load limit was imposed on the 85-year-old bridge in November 2014, meaning landholders living past the bridge were unable to transport timber off their properties, causing economic hardship.

The load limit also restricted the number of cattle which could be transported to market and farm deliveries to affected properties.

Work on new 22.5x5m concrete bridge was finished in February 2017, with traffic once again flowing freely in and out of the valley.

It cost \$457,200 with the Federal Government contributing \$228,600 through Round 2 of the Bridge Renewal Program and Kyogle Council funding the remainder.

"Kyogle Council faces a battle to maintain its ageing timber bridge network and is grateful to the Federal Government for the Bridge Renewal Program Funding," Kyogle Mayor Danielle Mulholland said.

"McKees Bridge is one of seven bridges for which Council received dollar for dollar funding through Round 2 of the Bridge Renewal Program.

"Council hopes to have the other six bridges on Gradys Creek and Lions roads built by August and has applied for further funds under the program."

## **END OF RELEASE**

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