



Moreland City Council

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Mr Stephen Northey

COBURG NORTH VIC 3058

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Dear Mr Northey

EDGARS CREEK/ RONALD STREET BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

Thank you for your query raised during Public Question Time at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 10 May 2017 regarding the Edgars Creek/Ronald Street Bridge Replacement.

Council acknowledges that the removal of the bridge has been keenly felt by members of your local community.

On previous occasions following flood events, Council has been able to restore the bridge to service by replacing decking and handrails. Following the last flood event however, the structural integrity was considered compromised to a state where removal was necessary. The old bridge was constructed during an era when little consideration was given to the impacts of flooding and access for users with disabilities.

Whilst the loss of the bridge has certainly reduced access for the local community, Council is unable to provide a short term replacement or a bridge built to a lower standard than the current requirements dictate.

Council is currently engaged in an investigation process to determine the viability of replacing the bridge. Unfortunately, this is a rather involved process. To progress the investigation, Council has asked Melbourne Water to provide preliminary advice regarding flood level projections and the necessary mitigation measures required. This will enable Council to develop a concept plan that will guide community consultation and estimating costs. Unfortunately, the unpredictable nature of the flooding meant there was no programmed budget for the bridge replacement, with insurance only providing a small amount of funding due to the nature of the former bridge.

Melbourne Water's influence on the bridge design is significant. Melbourne Water are the statutory authority that provides the minimum standards for new bridges over its waterways.

Language Link

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|----------|-----------|---------------------|-----------|
| 中文 | 9280 1910 | Español | 9280 1916 |
| Italiano | 9280 1911 | Hrvatski | 9280 1917 |
| Ελληνικά | 9280 1912 | हिन्दी | 9280 1918 |
| العربية | 9280 1913 | | |
| Türkçe | 9280 1914 | All other languages | |
| Việt Ngữ | 9280 1915 | 9280 1919 | |

Council notes your observation that learnings from the replacement bridge across Merri Creek near De Chene Reserve can be instructive in any public consultation for a replacement bridge across Edgar's Creek. The scale of the De Chene bridge was effectively determined by Melbourne Water's insistence that the bridge be built to clear the one in one hundred (1:100) year flood level. It should be noted that the 1:100 level is more an expression of severity rather than frequency. Generally, it is accepted that in the context of climate change, it is likely that extreme weather events, such as flooding, will increase in frequency and severity.

Only detailed modelling can confirm the required standard. As the investigation proceeds, Council will continue to update the community. In the interim, the site has been fenced and shortly additional wayfinding signage will be placed to help people navigate to alternate creek crossings.

Once again, I thank you for your input regarding the bridge and look forward to your continued involvement.

Please contact Council's Team Leader Strategic and Sustainable Transport, Craig Griffiths, on 9240 2264, or email cgriffiths@moreland.vic.gov.au if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Yours sincerely



Grant Thorne
DIRECTOR CITY INFRASTRUCTURE

19 / 5 / 2017

Cc: All Councillors
Dr Nerina Di Lorenzo, Chief Executive Officer
Julia Cushing, Acting Manager Strategic Transport and Compliance