

Planning for a future crossing at Mulwala

Frequently asked questions | June 2021

Transport for NSW

Why are you consulting on these options again?

We are aware that community sentiment may have changed since the NSW and Victorian governments endorsed the 'Grey' option in 2015. We would like to seek further input from the community and better understand issues, concerns and what is valued about each crossing option when presented with background information, key benefits and design considerations as part of our planning process for a new bridge.

You have already announced the 'Grey' route as the preferred option. Will you take feedback on the 'Green' route seriously?

Yes. We are aware that community sentiment may have changed since the NSW and Victorian governments endorsed the 'Grey' option in 2015. This feedback is important as it will help us better understand community issues, concerns and what is valued about each option. We will take all community comments on board to ensure the outcome reflects the needs of the Mulwala and Yarrawonga communities, now and in the future.

Will Mulwala Bridge remain open after a new bridge has been built at Mulwala?

Mulwala Bridge will be removed following construction of a new bridge. As part of this process, we will consult with you about an appropriate way to recognise its history and importance in connecting the Mulwala and Yarrawonga communities.

When is the Yarrawonga Weir crossing closing?

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) previously announced the weir crossing would close in 2020. Transport for NSW has been working with the MDBA to allow use of the weir crossing while maintenance works on the existing bridge are carried out to ensure it remains fit for purpose until a new bridge is built. Closure of the weir crossing will take place some time after the current program of work is completed.

Will you be building a bypass?

There are no plans for a future bypass to be built at Mulwala.

Is there funding for construction of a new bridge?

The NSW and Victorian governments have not committed funding for a future bridge at this stage. Transport for NSW will continue working with the Victorian Department of Transport to progress this important project.

How will the community's feedback be used?

The NSW and Victorian governments are keen to hear your thoughts about the 'Grey' and 'Green' options. Community feedback will help confirm the preferred option.

How do I have my say?

Your feedback will help inform planning for a future bridge at Mulwala. There are a number of ways to have your say:

- Go to our online feedback tool at nswroads.work/mulwalabridge and drop a pin within the feedback area to let us know where you have concerns, issues, or feedback.
- Email us at <u>murrayrivercrossing@transport.nsw.gov.au</u>
- Write to us at New Mulwala Bridge project team, PO Box 484, Wagga Wagga NSW 2650.

When does the feedback period end?

Feedback is open until midnight on Friday 30 July 2021.

Why are you still doing maintenance on the existing bridge?

We need to continue to maintain Mulwala Bridge to ensure it remains safe and serviceable for as long as it is needed.

When will a new bridge be built?

A new crossing between Mulwala and Yarrawonga remains a medium-term priority, as detailed in the Murray River Crossings Investment Priority Assessment. While this priority ranking has not changed, we are continuing to investigate a preferred option for future certainty and land use planning.

What is the Murray River Crossings Investment Priority Assessment?

In 2018, the NSW and Victorian governments carried out the Murray River Crossings Investment Prioritisation Assessment to help inform and prioritise future investment decisions by ranking each crossing over the Murray River. The assessment reviewed 32 bridge and ferry assets and considered freight connectivity, road safety, reliability, condition, proximity to alternate crossings and pedestrian and cyclist facilities.

Mulwala Bridge was ranked eighth highest priority for investment, behind Swan Hill, Tooleybuc, Abbotsford, John Foord, Murrabit, Towong and George Chaffey bridges.

Read the Investment Prioritisation Assessment at: roads-

waterways.transport.nsw.gov.au/projects/01documents/murray-river-bridges/murray-river-crossings-investment-priority-assessment-2018-01.pdf

How can I get more information?

Join us for an online information session on Wednesday 14 July at 1pm.

The event is an opportunity to learn more about the two options, ask questions and get realtime answers from the project team.

This event will be held via Microsoft Teams due to current COVID-19 restrictions, and to ensure the health and safety of the community and staff.

Access the session by going to nswroads.work/mulwalabridgeqanda just before 1pm on the day of the online event.

A recording of the information session will be available on the project website following the livestream at nswroads.work/mulwalabridge.

For questions outside this information session, please email us at

<u>murrayrivercrossing@transport.nsw.gov.au</u> or write to New Mulwala Bridge project team, PO Box 484, Wagga Wagga NSW 2650.

When happens next?

We will consider your feedback and comments on both bridge options and prepare a community feedback summary report. We will advise the NSW and Victorian governments of the outcome and seek endorsement of the preferred option.