

Transport for NSW

Planning for a future Murray River crossing at Mulwala

Community update | June 2021



Image of Mulwala Bridge

Transport for NSW, in collaboration with Regional Roads Victoria, is continuing to plan for a future crossing over the Murray River at Mulwala.

In 2014, Regional Roads Victoria consulted with the community on crossing and connection options known as the 'Grey' and 'Green' routes for a new bridge between Mulwala and Yarrawonga. The 'Grey' option was the favoured option and endorsed by the NSW and Victorian governments in 2015. Since that time, we understand community sentiment may have changed so we are inviting you to provide feedback about your preferred alignment. We would like to better understand community issues, concerns and what you value about each option as part of our planning process for a new bridge.







Crossing options map

Green route

Connects from Irvine Parade, Yarrawonga to Melbourne Street, Mulwala.

Key benefits

- Removes through-traffic and reduces congestion in Belmore Street, Yarrawonga
- Provides an alternative freight route removing trucks from Belmore Street
- Improves access to the Yarrawonga Mulwala Golf Club Resort
- Opens up the Yarrawonga and Mulwala foreshores once the current bridge is removed.

Key design considerations

- Increases environmental impacts such as noise, pollution and congestion to residents in Piper Street and McNally Street, Yarrawonga
- Significantly increases traffic on Piper Street and McNally Street as they would become the only local road connections to Belmore Street and East Yarrawonga
- Removes the direct connection for southbound traffic from accessing Belmore Street
- Increases traffic on Gulai Road, Mulwala
- Reduces connectivity for residents east of Belmore Street travelling to Mulwala
- Provides the longest travel route for pedestrians and cyclists between Melbourne Street and Belmore Street
- Unknown environmental and heritage impacts as assessment has not been carried out along proposed green route
- Reduces direct access to Yarrawonga foreshore due to the crossing being further away
- Impacts the water treatment plant and local businesses including reducing car parking at Club Mulwala RSL and acquisition of land from Yarrawonga Mulwala Golf Club Resort.



Grey route

Connects from Belmore Street, Yarrawonga to Melbourne Street, Mulwala.

Key benefits

- Removes through-traffic and reduces congestion in Belmore Street, Yarrawonga
- Improves connectivity to residential areas east of Belmore Street
- Provides an alternative freight route removing trucks from Belmore Street
- Minimal impacts to Melbourne Street Mulwala as existing conditions maintained
- Maintains the option for customers to access Belmore Street
- Provides the shortest travel route for pedestrians and cyclists between Melbourne Street and Belmore Street
- Provides direct access to Yarrawonga foreshore supporting tourism.

Key design considerations

- Increases traffic on Irvine Parade between Belmore Street and the rail line
- Increases environmental impacts such as noise, pollution and congestion to residents in Irvine Parade between Piper Street and Belmore Street
- Heritage impacts identified including the relocation of a local heritage customs house
- Prevents broader recreational use on Lake Mulwala
- Prevents possible foreshore development by retaining existing bridge location.

FAQs

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.

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.

Find out more by attending our online information session to be held on **Wednesday 14 July**

Event details can be found on Page 4. Feedback closes midnight Friday 30 July.

We are seeking your feedback to better understand the community's concerns or support for the 'Grey' and 'Green' routes.

Have your say

Your feedback will help inform planning for a future bridge at Mulwala. Take a look at the 'Green' and 'Grey' options on our mapping tool at **nswroads.work/mulwalabridge** and drop a pin within the feedback area to let us know where you have concerns, issues or feedback about the options.

Feedback can also be sent to **murrayrivercrossing@ transport.nsw.gov.au** or by post to New Mulwala Bridge project team, PO Box 484, Wagga Wagga NSW 2650.

Find out more

Join us at our 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 real-time answers from the project team.

We are hosting an online information session due to current COVID-19 restrictions, and to ensure the health and safety of the community and staff.

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

A recording will be available for viewing on the project website after the event.

Feedback is open until midnight Friday 30 July.

Next steps

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 route.

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

Contact us

For further information about this project contact the project team at:



1300 679 842



murray river crossing@transport.nsw.gov. au



If you require the services of an interpreter, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 and ask them to call the project team on 1300 679 842.

New bridge is a medium-term priority

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.

While this priority ranking has not changed, we are continuing to investigate a preferred option for future certainty and land use planning.



Bridge maintenance on Mulwala Bridge



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