Frequently asked questions from the November 2013 community meeting

Why is an option with a lift span bridge now being considered?

At the November 2013 community meeting, Roads and Maritime showed high level bridge options. Feedback received about most of these options suggested that social and visual impacts from road embankments were not acceptable. To keep traffic travelling along Murray Street and avoid large embankments, the only possible option involves building a low level bridge with a modern lift span.

Will direct access to Murray Street be maintained?

Yes, Roads and Maritime would ensure that direct access to Murray Street is maintained in any option. The blue and purple options follow Murray Street and the yellow option connects directly via an intersection.

Will I still be able to access the boat ramp?

Yes, Roads and Maritime will ensure that access to the boat ramp will be maintained in any option.

Will Tooleybuc be seen from the new bridge?

If the yellow option is selected then Roads and Maritime would aim to design the bridge so that passing travellers could see as much of Tooleybuc as possible.

Hasn't Roads and Maritime already made a decision based on engineering and cost?

A decision on a preferred option cannot be made until further investigations have been carried out. Cost is an important consideration however there are a range of other important factors to consider such as environment and community amenity. Full economic analysis cannot occur until the specialist studies are completed.

Future maintenance work on the existing bridge

Maintenance work will need to continue on the existing bridge to ensure it continues to service the area until replaced.

Deck replacement work has been delayed to avoid harvest season after consultation with Wakool Shire Council and the farming community. Work is now expected to start in July 2014 with day closures in August. Roads and Maratime will continue to consult with stakeholders and the community about how potential impacts from the work can be minimised.

Have your say

We want your views and ideas. All comments received will be carefully considered as part of the next stage of the planning process.

Please address written comments to:
Project manager, Tim Wilson
Tooleybuc Bridge replacement
Roads and Maritime Services
PO Box 484, Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

Or email comments to:
Wagga.Wagga.Regional.Office@rms.nsw.gov.au

Further information

For more information please contact the project manager, Tim Wilson:

T 02 6938 1111 (Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5pm)
E Wagga.Wagga.Regional.Office@rms.nsw.gov.au

Information is also available on the Roads and Maritime Services website **www.rms.nsw.gov.au**

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Community Update

NSW NOW The new state of business

MAY 2014

Replacement of Tooleybuc Bridge

Roads and Maritime Services, in partnership with VicRoads, has identified three strategic route options for further investigation to replace the Murray River bridge on the Mallee Highway at Tooleybuc. This project is part of the NSW Government's Bridges for the Bush initiative, which aims to improve freight productivity in regional areas.

The project

Roads and Maritime, in partnership with VicRoads, has started planning for a new bridge at Tooleybuc.

The bridge has been identified for replacement under the Timber Truss Bridge Strategy, which was endorsed by the Heritage Council of NSW in August 2012.

Benefits

- Improve travel efficiency and freight vehicle capacity by providing a two lane, concrete bridge.
- Improve road safety for pedestrians and cyclists by providing a footway across the bridge.
- Reduce disruptions to road users by eliminating long term maintenance work on the old timber bridge.
- Reduce disruptions to road users and boaters by either improving the efficiency of the lift span or removing the need for it.

Strategic route options to be further investigated

Based on the feedback received from the community, Roads and Maritime has developed three strategic route options for further investigation.

These are:

- **YELLOW OPTION** A high level bridge downstream of the existing bridge.
- **BLUE OPTION** A low level bridge with lift span immediately next to and upstream of the existing bridge.
- **PURPLE OPTION** A low level bridge with lift span upstream of the existing bridge (based on the previous high level orange option).

All the options have a connection to Murray Street, the main shopping district of Tooleybuc.

The options are shown on the map overleaf.

Community consultation

At a community meeting in April 2013, Roads and Maritime introduced three initial broad corridor options for a replacement bridge. These corridors were upstream, downstream and central.

The main feedback from the meeting was:

- A replacement bridge should remain close to town and not create a bypass.
- A new bridge without a lift span was preferable.

After receiving this feedback, four high level bridge (no lift span) alignment options were shown at a community meeting in November 2013. These options were yellow (downstream), green (central), blue (diagonally adjacent to existing bridge) and orange (upstream). The options showed the impact a high bridge structure would have on the township due to the need for longer and wider approaches with large embankments either side of the bridge.

Feedback from the community suggested support for the yellow option, so long as it connected directly to Murray Street. There was also some support for a low level orange option, noting however that access would need to be provided at Murray Street. This is now the purple option.

Feedback also suggested that the social, visual and heritage impacts of the other options with a high level bridge and adjoining embankments would be unacceptable, particularly the lack of access to the main street of Tooleybuc.

Environmental constraints

Roads and Maritime had AECOM Pty Ltd carry out early environmental studies to find out what could impact on choosing the best site for the replacement bridge. The studies found a range of potential constraints, including:

- **Biodiversity:**
  - Nine plant and 30 threatened animal species potentially in the area, listed under NSW, Victoria and/or Commonwealth legislation. Of these, three plants and one bird species were found in an overview field survey.
  - Large, hollow-bearing trees, potentially native species habitat.
- **Heritage:**
  - Bridge keeper's cottage, punt gate and memorial plaques in Tooleybuc, and an historic engine on the Piangil side of the river.
  - Areas of potential Aboriginal cultural heritage.
- **Ground and river conditions:**
  - Navigation clearances required for larger river-craft.
  - River bank erosion.
  - Ground conditions impacting bridge foundations.

This information has been used to develop the strategic route options for further investigation.

The environmental constraints analysis report can be viewed at **www.rms.nsw.gov.au**

Specialist studies

Detailed specialist studies will be carried out on the yellow, blue and purple options over the next few months. The studies will become part of the preliminary environmental investigation, which is expected to be completed by the end of 2014, and will help determine a preferred option.

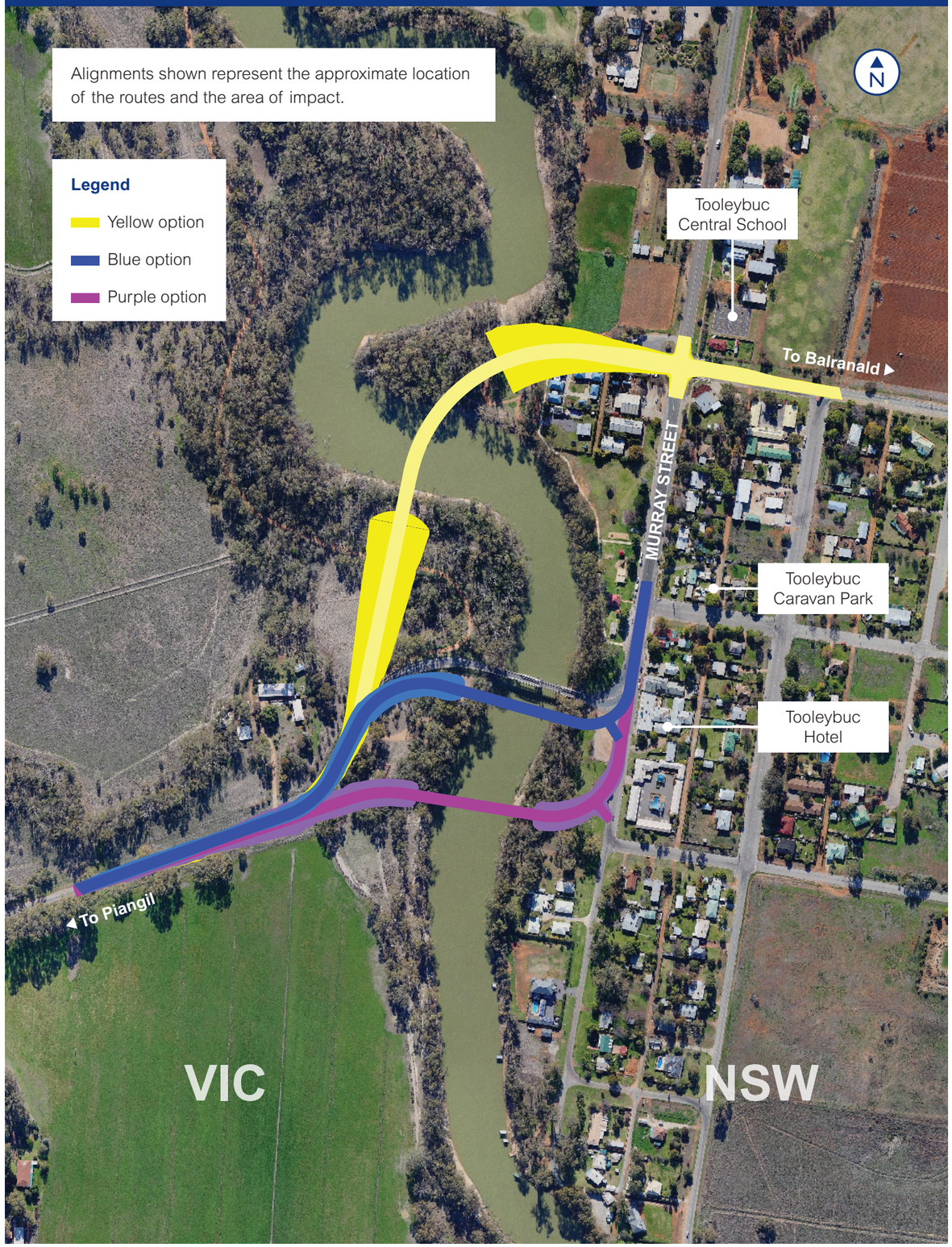
These studies include:

- Road safety
- Flood modelling
- Noise
- Socio-economic
- Landscape and visual
- Flora and fauna
- Aboriginal heritage

Concept design of the three strategic route options will also occur during this time with a preferred option expected to be confirmed by mid 2015.

The planning and decision making process

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

- Option Development
- Preliminary Investigations, Concept Design — **WE ARE HERE**
- Value Management Workshop
- Announcement of Preferred Option
- Environmental Assessment, Final Design
- Planning Approval
- Construction

Tooleybuc Bridge Replacement – Strategic route options