

Swan Hill Bridge replacement project

Community update

July 2024



Swan Hill Bridge looking south towards Victoria.

Transport for NSW (Transport), in partnership with Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) Victoria, is continuing planning into building a new bridge between Murray Downs in NSW and Swan Hill in Victoria.

The new bridge will feature two lanes, providing clearance and capacity to remove traffic delays and accommodate today's freight needs while improving access with a wider path for pedestrians and cyclists.

It is the first time in more than 35 years that NSW or Victoria have built a new lift span bridge, making this bridge replacement a unique project in the Murray River Crossings program.

The Swan Hill Bridge project currently has Australian and NSW Government funding for development.

Project overview

A new bridge will



**be designed to carry
Higher Mass Limit
freight loads with
improved clearances for
oversized loads**



**and provide better
connectivity, improving
access for the
community**



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Replacement crossing is a priority

Both NSW and Victorian governments identify Swan Hill Bridge as a high priority for replacement.

The McCallum Street option was named as the preferred alignment in May 2021 after comprehensive planning, investigations and community consultations were held on both sides of the border to understand the community's preferences for a future bridge.

New bridge designs under way

Transport is assessing the best option to link McCallum Street and Swan Hill Road, to minimise impacts to surrounding built and natural environments while considering construction needs and providing continuous traffic access.

Swan Hill Bridge is surrounded by unique landmarks and features that need to be carefully considered to ensure the design is buildable, functional and complements the surrounding environment.

The project team has developed a shortlist of workable designs, with a preferred design to be selected to support funding applications following community consultation.

Site investigations and surveys

The project team is continuing its planning within the preferred McCallum Street alignment. Geotechnical and survey work has been carried out alongside environmental investigations.

Aerial surveys of the bridge are planned in August. This photogrammetry exercise will provide the project team with 3D images of the bridge and water tower to assist with planning.

A drone will be operating between McCallum Street in Swan Hill and Swan Hill Road in Murray Downs. Flights will also be about 150 metres upstream and downstream of the bridge.

While the drone is surveying close to the road and bridge, traffic will be stopped for up to five minutes at a time to ensure the safety of road users.

These brief delays will happen regularly during the day to accurately capture details of the bridge. Motorists can expect short delays in crossing the bridge and at nearby intersections during work hours.



The current Swan Hill Bridge - pictured looking south into Victoria - was built in 1896 and needs to be replaced.

When will the build start?

Swan Hill Bridge is a unique and complex project and is a number of years away from starting construction.

A huge amount of planning, design and site investigations, including environment and heritage, are required in both states to understand and mitigate potential impacts, identify the best performing solution and support funding applications. Thorough planning ensures the project will move quickly and smoothly when construction starts.

The project is expected to take about three years to build. Funding for construction of the project is contingent on completing the planning phase for the project.

What is next?

Transport will keep the community informed and provide opportunities to be involved or provide feedback about planning for the new bridge.

The community will be consulted when the preliminary design options are finalised and ready for public display.

A preferred option within the McCallum Street corridor will be confirmed and a business case developed to seek further construction funding for the project in both NSW and Victoria.

Transport thanks the community for its patience and understanding as work continues towards delivering a bridge that will benefit the community, business and industry on both sides of the Murray River.



Acknowledging heritage

Transport is currently working with the Victorian Government on heritage requirements to progress planning for a new bridge.

An important part of the project will be acknowledging the vital link the old bridge provided communities within NSW and Victoria over the past century.

Transport and DTP Victoria are committed to working collaboratively with local government, state authorities, Aboriginal communities and other key stakeholders on both sides of the border throughout the project.



Managing traffic impacts

Transport will prioritise continuous traffic access during the build process.

This may include installation of a temporary bridge to allow traffic to safely cross the river and to provide greater flexibility and space for construction.

Transport will continue to inspect and carry out essential maintenance on the current bridge. This work has previously included temporary steel supports being installed to ensure the bridge continues to be safe for road users and the community.

Next steps

Replacing Swan Hill Bridge is a complex process but we're working hard to plan a new bridge as soon as possible.



The bottom line on funding

The Australian Government has committed \$60 million to the project of which \$6 million is allocated towards planning and \$54 million is reserved for construction subject to completion of planning. The NSW Government has committed \$7.5 million towards the project.

This funding will allow project development to progress. As part of the planning process, we are continuing to seek further funding from the NSW and Victorian governments.

We're committed to working with Traditional Owners

Aboriginal cultural investigations are a vital consideration when it comes to planning for major new projects like Swan Hill Bridge replacement.

Transport's Aboriginal engagement team is a critical part of the project team and help guide us as cultural heritage and mapping studies take place across the area.

Contact us



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nswroads.work/swanhill

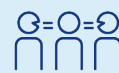


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