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Minister for Roads
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Media Release

Preferred Kangaroo River crossing progresses, temporary bridge chosen

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The Minns Labor Government is delivering on its commitment to restore a reliable crossing over the Kangaroo River, with Transport for NSW confirming a temporary bridge beside Hampden Bridge has been identified as the preferred option.

The single-lane modular steel truss bridge will be delivered in prefabricated sections and largely assembled onsite to provide medium-term access for vehicles up to 42.5 tonnes.

Early investigations found detour options, including via Glenmurray Road, Upper Kangaroo River Road and Nerriga and Oallen Ford roads, were not viable due to significant environmental and property impacts as well as the time required to update or construct alternative roads.

Detailed design and additional assessments are now underway, with timelines to be refined and funding to be secured as planning progresses. However, the preferred option provides an alignment that is the quickest to deliver.

A temporary bridge is expected to take a number of years.

At the same time, work is continuing on both the future and the past – with the Minns Labor Government investing \$500,000 into early investigations for a new permanent bridge, and essential maintenance underway to keep the historic Hampden Bridge in service.

Nine damaged timber beams along the top of the truss were replaced in August, while a more complex strengthening program to replace another 12 beams on the lower truss is scheduled for 2026.

Transport for NSW is continuing to engage with the Kangaroo Valley community as the project develops.

For the latest updates visit: transport.nsw.gov.au/projects/current-projects/hampden-bridge

Minister for Roads Jenny Aitchison said:

“The Minns Labor Government promised an update by the end of September – and today we’re delivering it. A temporary bridge option beside Hampden Bridge has been identified as the preferred way forward.

“This won’t be an overnight fix, but it is a major step to restoring stronger access for the Kangaroo Valley community and the freight and tourism operators who rely on this vital link.

“At the same time, we’re safeguarding Hampden Bridge and investing in planning for a new permanent crossing – ensuring the community has both a safe solution now and certainty for the future.”

Member-elect for Kiama Katelin McInerney said:

“This is welcome news for Kangaroo Valley residents who have been waiting for certainty about a safe and reliable crossing.

“The community has been clear about how important it is to get traffic flowing again, whether it’s families getting to school and work, or freight operators, farmers and visitors supporting local businesses.

“While planning for the permanent solution continues, this temporary bridge will provide real relief and reassurance that progress is being made.

“I look forward to working closely with Minister Aitchison and the Minns Labor Government to continue to deliver for our community.”