



THOMAS JAMES BRIDGE, SETTLERS ROAD UPDATE



Following on from the recent Thomas James Bridge Advisory Committee meeting held Thursday 1 June 2023, the committee requested that Council provide a summary of the status of works scheduled for Thomas James Bridge (TJB) and the adjoining upslope damage on Settlers Road. The information provided below is current at the time of creating this flyer.

Commencement of work – We cannot provide definitive details until the contractor has been selected. We cannot provide an update on timing until the tender process is complete. We anticipate awarding the contract within the next fortnight pending funding approval.

Construction Timeline – While we have previously estimated that construction could take up to 12 months, the exact timing will depend on the contractor that is chosen and we will not have any updated figures until the Contractor is engaged and they have provided their final program.

Temporary Access – The option of a single lane panel bridge with pre-determined access times is being investigated. If it is a possibility, there will still be disruption whilst this bridge is installed so it is to be expected that extended travel times will still apply.

If the temporary bridge is not a viable option, our request remains live with the NSW Government for assistance with alternate transport.

Temporary Bridge Load Limit – The bridge itself is designed to carry up to 42 Tonne, however, the access roads on either side will need to be assessed and this will determine if the maximum limit is possible.

Emergency Services Access – All Emergency Services (apart from SES) use Computer Aided Dispatch. We keep the services updated regularly and the Dispatch system will know when they can and can't access TJB/Settlers Road. Each service has developed alternative plans for access into the Valley.

Settlers Road Upslope – The plan is to clear the colluvial damage – which is the debris on the road – as 'early works' to allow two lane traffic and reduce the length of the contraflow. It is intended that the early or clearing work will be done by the contractor working on TJB and then a separate tender will be opened for the permanent repairs of the upslope. We do not yet have sufficient information with which to make a decision on whether it will be possible for both the permanent repairs and TJB can be repaired at the same time. We expect to have this information once the Contractor has been appointed.

When the upslope is being repaired, we anticipate minimal disruption and hopefully will only need to close down to one lane while drilling is occurring. Partial closures will also be required when shotcrete is taking place.

Community Information Meeting – We are planning to hold a community information meeting once we have a greater level of certainty over the matters above and we expect that this will be in the next 5 to 6 weeks, however that is subject to successful negotiation and execution of contracts. At this meeting, it will be our intention to provide detail on commencement date, construction timeline and temporary access. We will invite the contractor to come along to the meeting to introduce themselves to the community and assist us in answering any resident concerns. We are currently looking for a suitable venue to host the meeting. Once details are confirmed, information will be shared.