



30 January 2025

### **Council Award Clarence Town Bridge Contract**

At a council meeting held last night, Dungog Shire Council resolved to award a tender for the detailed design and construction of the new Clarence Town Bridge to Bridgeworks (Aust) Pty Ltd.

Council's Infrastructure & Assets team will work with Bridgeworks (Aust) Pty Ltd to complete the design and oversee the construction and delivery of the new structure. The \$20.6 million project is being jointly funded by the Australian and NSW Governments after Council successfully lobbied to secure the funding.

Once completed, the new Clarence Town Bridge will be a dual-lane structure approximately 135 metres in length and 13.0 metres wide and will include a pedestrian walkway, upgraded road approaches and approach footpaths. The new bridge will enhance access over the Williams River to Clarence Town, in addition to the heritage-listed Brig O'Johnston timber truss bridge.

Dungog Shire Council Mayor Digby Rayward said the awarding of the tender was an important milestone that signalled Council's intention to get the project moving.

"The community, emergency services and logistics operators rely heavily on this traverse over the Williams River, and for many years, we have had to contend with a structure that no longer meets all of our needs, so the sooner we can deliver the new bridge, the sooner we can improve access and reliability for everyone," Cr Rayward said.

Minister for Regional Transport and Roads Jenny Aitchison said the NSW Government was committed to partnering on projects that deliver vital transport infrastructure across the state, with a total of \$11 million committed to this new bridge project, which has an overall estimated cost of \$20.6 million.

"This project is a good example of all three levels of government working together," Ms Aitchison said.

"The new bridge will ensure more efficient delivery times for freight operators, and safer road conditions for motorists and residents with benefits for a wide range of local industries, as well as schools and tourism operators.

"The NSW Government is also funding the rehabilitation of the heritage-listed Brig O'Johnston Bridge, as part of its \$145 million commitment to improve road freight productivity in regional NSW and reduce timber bridge maintenance costs by replacing or upgrading bridges."

Council held a community information session in Clarence Town in April 2024, with residents and local business operators given the opportunity to review and provide comments on the concept design. The key concerns highlighted during the consultation included the impact of



construction on local traffic and pedestrian access, future accessibility to Lions Park and the future of the Brig O'Johnston Bridge. The Council, in collaboration with Bridgeworks (Aust) Pty Ltd will manage these issues throughout the design and construction phases.

It is anticipated the final design will be completed over the coming months and construction will begin later this year, which is likely to take up to 24 months to complete. The Brig O'Johnston Bridge will remain open to traffic during construction.

The community are encouraged to keep an eye on the Dungog Shire Council website for updates on the project, including any changes to traffic conditions once construction commences.

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