

Media Release

For immediate release

14 May 2014

Preparation for Hampden Bridge Project commences

Contractors responsible for the removal of Hampden Bridge will this week move equipment into place on the Murrumbidgee River and establish a safe work site around the Bridge in preparation for the commencement of work.

As part of site establishment, barges will be transported along the River from Wiradjuri Boat Ramp and moved into place under Hampden Bridge to form an on-water work platform.

Due to the establishment of the work platform, the River will be closed to boats and water craft on either side of Hampden Bridge for the duration of the project.

Site preparation work will continue onsite over the coming weeks, with the demolition of the bridge expected to be undertaken in approximately two months time.

"These preparatory activities are the first step of a three to four month program of works and will be the first major visible works to occur on site since Council resolved to demolish Hampden Bridge in March 2012," said Heinz Kausche, Director of Infrastructure Services, Wagga Wagga City Council.

Due to Hampden Bridge's place in local history, Council will be ensuring the community is kept informed of key milestones and activities throughout the project.

"It is good to see the project getting underway following the achievement of significant planning and project milestones, but due to the complexity of the project the actual removal of the bridge truss spans is still some months away," continued Mr Kausche.

"As an example of some of the preparatory work required in the coming weeks, any bats that have taken up residency under the bridge will be encouraged to move to a more suitable home using lights to and, as required, wrapping parts of the bridge to discourage their return."

The current restricted area around the bridge will be expanded with additional site fencing to include a work compound accessible from Hampden Avenue, North Wagga.

Media Briefing and Interview Opportunity:

Media are invited to attend a briefing session regarding the Hampden Bridge Project with Wagga Wagga City Council's Director of Infrastructure, Heinz Kausche and Manager Engineering, Alex Fenwick.

Time: 9-10am
Date: Thursday 22 May 2014
Location: Council Committee Room, Civic Centre

Individual interview opportunities will follow briefing session.

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