



Wednesday 18 November 2015

Notorious Box Creek bridge to be replaced

Murray Irrigation and Conargo Shire Council have joined forces to replace a local bridge which is considered unsafe for road users.

The bridge crosses the Box Creek on the Pretty Pine-Moulamein Road, approximately 42.5km from Deniliquin, and currently only provides enough room for one lane of traffic to cross at any one time.

Murray Irrigation Infrastructure Manager Trevor Heise says the bridge is unsafe for road users and needs to be replaced.

“The bridge is only six metres wide and doesn’t meet the standard desired width for B-double and road train access,” Mr Heise said.

“It’s an inadequate width for two-way traffic flow.

“Its width in comparison to the rest of the road makes for a dangerous situation in general access vehicles as well.”

The bridge has also been highlighted as a constraint to the flow of Box Creek when rainfall events coincide with high flows in the Edward River.

“There’s inadequate capacity to discharge flows at high peaks. Raising the bridge height will reduce the probability of traffic delays due to flooding,” Mr Heise said.

Tenders are currently being called for the design and construction of the new bridge.

It is proposed that the new bridge will be a two-way, two-lane concrete structure with a minimum carriageway of at least 8.5 metres.

The upgrade is being funded under the NSW Government Fixing Country Roads program, as well as contributions from Conargo Shire Council and Murray Irrigation.

The request for tender and the proposed design and construction contract will be administered by Murray Irrigation. Tenders must be received by Murray Irrigation by 5.00pm on Friday 27 November.

Box Creek is a natural waterway that has been augmented to accommodate drainage from Murray Irrigation’s network of water supply channels.

The bridge is technically a Conargo Shire Council asset, but is under the control of Murray Irrigation.

The tender is expected to be awarded mid-December with construction to start in the New Year.

Ends.

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