

Powneys Road Bridge Ready for Replacement

Powneys Road Bridge in Tarwin Lower will receive a much needed replacement after South Gippsland Shire Council secured Victorian Government funding for the \$320,000 project.

Council has allocated \$106,666 towards the project with a further \$213,334 secured from the Victorian Government's Local Roads to Market Fund.

The existing bridge is a temporary structure constructed back in 1984 due to the washout of the previous crossing.

Due to the short-term nature of the asset it is a narrow bridge lacking safety barriers, guardrails and the concrete abutments do not have piled foundations.

The timber deck bridge is no longer suitable for dairy and cattle farmers using heavy vehicles and will be replaced with a 14 metre long concrete bridge.

The new structure will allow vehicles up to 68 tonne to use the bridge with a minimum lifespan of 100 years.

South Gippsland Shire Council's Manager Engineering and Assets John Moylan wanted to thank the Victorian Government for supporting the project.

"Council is greatly appreciative of the Victorian Government for providing the remaining funds required to construct a replacement bridge on Powneys Road.

"We expect that the replacement bridge will improve productivity and competitiveness of goods and services for local farmers due to the enhanced transport route.

"As South Gippsland is one of the key dairy farming locations in Australia and beef farming has also become a major industry in the area it is vital to implement projects such as the replacement of the Powneys Road Bridge to support the industry," said Mr Moylan.

The bridge will be constructed as part of Council's 2017/18 Capital Works Program and is expected to be completed by April 2018.

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