

Land Required to Improve Connections for Bena

South Gippsland Shire Council will conduct improvement works to the rail bridge on Bena Kongwak Road, Bena if Federal Government funding can be secured.

The existing VicTrack railway bridge is approximately 126 years old and has exceeded its service life therefore requiring a replacement.

Council has submitted an application for \$1.05M in grant funding under the Federal Government's Bridges Renewal Program and VicTrack will contribute \$450,000 towards the project if this funding is secured.

If successful, Council will work to replace the bridge and improve approaching roads to alleviate the existing substandard alignment.

The new bridge will provide for heavy vehicles and performance based standard vehicles which will assist with transporting goods in the area, improving economic prosperity in the area.

To facilitate the project works Council is required to obtain three small parcels of land in the area.

The property owners impacted by the land purchases are supportive of the project going forward.

South Gippsland Shire Council's Manager Engineering and Assets John Moylan was pleased the project was closer to being shovel ready.

"The Bena rail bridge is in desperate need of improvement to provide better transport connections in the region, particularly for the agricultural sector.

"The bridge is limited to general mass limit vehicles at present and the road alignment is poor, particularly at the northern approach.

"If funding is provided the new bridge will expand the possibilities for exporting in the region, a key driver for economic prosperity in South Gippsland," said Mr Moylan.

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