

Joint Media Release

1 August, 2022

Callington community say NO to traffic lights

Detracting from the heritage and character of the township was a key reason for the Callington community to reject a proposal by Mount Barker District Council and the Rural City of Murray Bridge to place traffic lights at each end of the historic Erskine Bridge to improve pedestrian safety.

Erskine Bridge at Callington is a single lane bridge crossing the Bremer River and has been used by both vehicles and pedestrians since it was built in 1890.

Residents have become concerned for the safety of those using the bridge, particularly children walking to and from Callington Primary School.

The Bremer River forms the border between Mount Barker District Council and the Rural City of Murray Bridge, and in 2018 both councils agreed to investigate a stand-alone pedestrian bridge and share the costs equally.

The two councils also looked at a number of other options worth considering, which included traffic lights to control vehicle and pedestrian traffic on Erskine Bridge.

This proposal was put to the Callington community for feedback between April and June this year. Feedback was received through the council's online engagement site and from two public meetings.

Sixty three submissions were made with only 3 per cent of people who responded being in favour of traffic lights near Erskine Bridge.

Mount Barker Mayor, Ann Ferguson said that the Callington community had given the councils a very clear message.

“A pedestrian crossing of the Bremer River has been identified as a high priority for residents of Callington and is something the community feel very strongly about”, Mayor Ferguson said.

Last month both councils agreed to further investigate the provision of a stand-alone bridge and that it was necessary for them to collaborate across sharing costs, seeking grant funding, project management and communications for the project to proceed.

“The concept design work for a stand-alone bridge is largely complete and previous cost estimates to construct a bridge of this nature is around \$1 million, Mount Barker’s General Manager Infrastructure, Phil Burton said.

“The current design and cost estimate will be used as a basis for future budget considerations and grant funding submissions while other innovative bridge design solutions are also explored.”

Mayors Ann Ferguson and Brenton Lewis will write to the local member for Hammond, Mr Adrian Pederick MP, this month outlining the importance of this project to the community and the desire for State Government support.

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