

**Media Release**

**For Immediate Release – 18.7.19**

**Yarrowonga Mulwala Bridge Survey Results**

Tuesday the 16<sup>th</sup> July 2019 marked a new beginning with Federation Council responding to the results from the recent community survey on the preferred alignment of the new bridge over Lake Mulwala. Both the Yarrowonga and Mulwala and surrounding communities clearly demonstrated their support for the green route and Council has now endorsed this as the preferred alignment. This is now consistent with the Moira Shires preferred alignment.

Council surveyed the Mulwala community via postcode, of those on the electoral role, during May/June 2019 to understand their views of the preferred route of the new Yarrowonga Mulwala Bridge. The survey process was voluntary and Council strongly encouraged participation by the Mulwala community.

The completed survey documentation and results were independently distributed and collated by a mailing and survey management firm. The results showed a total of 1562 surveys were distributed on 25 May 2019, with 28 days to return them. 867 completed surveys were returned, and 73 unopened surveys were returned. Of those who voted, 604 (70%) were in favour of option one (Green route); and 259 (30%) were in favour of option two (Grey route). Six responses did not clearly pick an option that could be identified. Two ticked both options.

This is a return rate of just over 55%, considered extremely high for a voluntary survey. This is a strong validation of the topics importance to the community, and justifies Councils decision to conduct the survey. It is also a very strong representative sample, to gain 55% of the views of a particular target audience.

Federation Council Mayor, Cr Patrick Bourke said the survey results demonstrated that the preference of the majority of survey respondents is clearly for the Green Route for the new bridge over Lake Mulwala. Council considered the results at the July Ordinary Meeting, and determined based on the preference of the majority of survey respondents, that the Green Route is now the preferred alignment for Council.

Mayor Bourke said, “Today is the start of both Councils working together with a shared view for replacing the nearly 100-year-old road bridge. Reaching agreement on the green route has been made possible by both Councils ensuring that those that are most affected by it had a legitimate say, the communities that live in Mulwala and Yarrowonga. We are very confident the strong vote for green will be the catalyst for convincing both State Governments to revisit the route alignment.”

“The green route will give both towns a chance to create tourism precincts connecting the towns to Lake Mulwala; they can become pedestrian precincts rather than highways and trucks. There is enormous opportunity for public space, foreshore activation, visitor services and people.”

“For too long the discussion has been about traffic analysis, it’s now time to start talking about how the towns will function better as tourism and lifestyle destinations and the green route will help us achieve that. We think it’s vital that Government listen to the people who live in the towns affected by these 100 year decisions, we have and that’s what’s convinced us to back green. We’ll be calling on both Road Ministers to re-open discussions on route selection in response to overwhelming community support for green.

Then we can continue advocacy for its construction, its moved to number three on the Murray River priority list and we want to keep it right up there with the weir bridge closing to traffic next year. Council will now convene meetings with Regional Roads Victoria, Transport NSW and the Moira Shire Council to formally relay the survey

results and Councils decision, a decision that aligns with that of Moira Shire, to progress this important project,” he said.

Further information is available from Councils website [www.federationcouncil.nsw.gov.au](http://www.federationcouncil.nsw.gov.au)

**Ends.**

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