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Our Ref

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PJ-4633

21 June 2023

Dear Resident/Owner

PROJECT UPDATE - PROPOSED CAUSEWAY REPLACEMENT AT HACKING RIVER, OTFORD RD, OTFORD

As you will be aware, significant flooding of the Hacking River on 9 February 2023 damaged the existing causeway structure beyond repair.

Since that time, Council teams have been working to make the site safe, limit the inconvenience to residents and prepare design for a replacement structure that strikes balance between road safety, flood safety and efficiency and the best outcomes for the local environment.

Over the past four months, Council has:

- Undertaken initial site clean-up to remove blockage of the remaining structures and concrete debris from the waterway
- Established temporary pedestrian access over the river
- Undertaken background investigations and designs
- Established a plan to deliver the project as quickly as possible

While the closure of the causeway is necessary, we understand the inconvenience it causes the community. Residents have raised concerns with us about the potential of having the closure continue into the upcoming 23/24 bushfire season.

At its 29 May Council meeting, Council resolved to move forward with a targeted procurement process that allows Council to accelerate the quotation process from contractors with the experience and ability to undertake the repair works.

This meant, we're able to fast-track the works with the intention of replacing the broken causeway ahead of the high risk summer period.

The attached Plan No. 7378_SK10 sets out the proposed works. While the new structure will essentially be "like-for-like", we have made improvements to bring the structure up to current standards and to ensure it's designed to withstand the loads associated with the significant floods that pass through here. Features of the proposed work are:

1. Replacement of concrete culvert, similar in overall size to the old structure but with larger openings to reduce blockage
2. Debris Deflector walls on the culvert inlet to reduce blockage.
3. Approach concrete pavement works
4. New/renewed directional signage and vehicle activated flashing warning sign
5. Improved drainage

6. Vehicle restraint posts

During construction there may be some traffic control requirements while the work is underway however work crews will aim to minimise disruption to local residents. We will also contact nearby residents before we start to let you know what dates we'll be onsite.

If you have any questions or would like to keep up to date with the current status of the project at any time you can refer to the 'Current Projects' page on Council's website:

<https://www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/council-projects/current-works/otford-causeway>

This letter is authorised by

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Attach: Consultation Plan No. 7378_SK10