



Dedicated to a better Brisbane

Brisbane City Council ABN 72 002 765 795

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4 September 2024

Councillor Nicole Johnston
Councillor for Tennyson Ward
Tennyson.Ward@bcc.qld.gov.au

Dear Councillor Johnston

Thank you for your emails of 9 and 12 August 2024 regarding the essential maintenance works scheduled for the Walter Taylor Bridge.

As advised on the 9 August, Council will be conducting essential maintenance works on the historic Walter Taylor Bridge between 13 – 30 September to ensure the bridge continues to serve the community.

The works are required to maintain the bridge's road surface and waterproof the bridge deck, extending the lifespan of the heritage structure and reducing the need for future maintenance. Works will include removing the existing layer of road asphalt and resealing over 200 metres worth of concrete joints on the bridge deck, before applying a waterproofing layer and resurfacing the road.

Given Walter Taylor Bridge's heritage state and the nature of maintenance works, a full closure is required. The closure will ensure loads and vibrations are limited and controlled on the bridge so as both the bridge cables' joints (nodes) can be replaced and the deck joints' resin sealant sets, with the September weather providing the most predictable curing conditions.

Pedestrians and cyclists will be able to use the adjacent Jack Pesch Bridge to cross the river. Rail services on the Ipswich and Rosewood line which use a separate rail bridge are operating during the closure and bus services have been rerouted to include Graceville train station where passengers needing stair free access can access the train station to cross the river.

The current works have been in planning for several months in consultation with the State Government and other key agencies including Queensland Rail, Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR), Emergency Services and Cross River Rail. Ambulance and police vehicles responding to urgent incidents with lights and sirens will be able to access nearby Jack Pesch Bridge during the full closure of Walter Taylor Bridge. This will be managed by onsite traffic control who will ensure no pedestrians or cyclists access the bridge at the same time as emergency vehicles.

The works form part of the typical bridge maintenance cycle required for a 90-year-old structure and will reduce the need for disruptive and costly annual works into the future. The closure will eliminate associated works risk to commute and allow workers to conduct activities safely on the narrow 2-lane bridge, with large equipment including excavators, bobcats and trucks required to manoeuvre constantly around the bridge.

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Council is implementing a communication plan to keep all residents and business informed about the closure. The plan outlines multiple channels including distribution of 42,000 letters, works updates, signage, TMR and Council overhead gantry variable messaging signs (VMS), 14 mobile VMS at locations along roads accessing the bridge, planned radio announcements and SMS and email alerts.

Council acknowledges and understands the impacts this will have on the community and businesses and advises motorists to plan ahead, with the closest road detour across the river at the Centenary Bridge. As Legacy Way is a privately owned tunnel Council would be liable for all usage costs if it were to be made free during this period and is therefore not being considered. School holidays have been chosen to implement these changes when traffic volumes are lowest and will be monitored by the Brisbane Metropolitan Transport Management Centre (BMTMC) which will make any adjustments to signal phasing on all roads to ensure traffic continues to move efficiently. All private property access will be maintained for any roads experiencing local changed traffic conditions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tim Wright', written in a cursive style.

Tim Wright

A/CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER