

# P r e s s R e l e a s e

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - 5 APRIL 2013

## TRANSPORT MINISTER SUPPORTS “OUTSTANDING” BRIDGE ART PROJECT

The Minister for Public Transport, the Hon. Terry Mulder, has thrown his support behind Echuca/Moama's iconic Bridge Art Project.

The Minister congratulated the steering committee on their “enthusiasm, dedication and visionary outlook for the future of Echuca-Moama.”

In a letter addressed to the committee chairperson, Barry Donchi, the Minister said he has asked Vic Roads to work with the project's local steering committee to examine ideas that can be incorporated in to the concept plans for the Second Murray River Crossing.

This marks a significant turning point in the Bridge Art Project committee's communication strategy.

Mr Donchi said, “If our plans of turning the bridge crossing into one of the world's largest outdoor galleries is to be done successfully, it is vital that we work in synergy with Vic Roads from the very outset. It's a once in a lifetime opportunity.”

“We were delighted with the response of the Minister as it gives us the opportunity to suggest design elements to support the broader gallery plans when the time is right and it confirms that our concept is being taken very seriously.”

The Minister acknowledged Vic Roads' pre-existing plans to consider architectural elements depicting local indigenous and non-indigenous identity for the Second Murray River Crossing and said the plans put forward by the Bridge Art Project committee may help achieve this outcome “to an outstanding degree.”

Regardless of the ultimate location of the second river crossing on the Victorian side, the NSW landing has been decided. This allows the committee to begin drafting funding proposals for feasibility studies on other components of the project that are planned to be built on a privately-owned NSW property. They include an interpretive hub, educational facility and indoor gallery.

“It's full steam ahead for us,” Barry said. “Now that we have the Minister's go-ahead to seek assistance from Mal Kersting at VicRoads, the next stage of planning is imminent.”

Committee Secretary, Chris Bilkey added: “Both the Campaspe and Murray Shire councils as well as Member for Rodney, Paul Weller have been very receptive to our ideas and we are well on the way to achieving blanket support from the community.”

### **THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW:**

Barry Donchi (Chair) 0408505474 / Chris Bilkey (Secretary) 0401032304 / Rob Walker (YYNAC) rob.w@yynac.com.au

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### **FOR BROADER COMMENT, CONTACT THE FOLLOWING IDENTITIES DIRECTLY:**

Paul Weller MP / Murray Shire / Campaspe Shire / Yorta Yorta Nation / VicRoads / Regional Development Murray