



## Media Release

12 April 2023

### **National Capital Authority brings latest details of Commonwealth Avenue Bridge Renewal to the public**

The National Capital Authority (NCA) has announced further details of the strengthening works and future designs of the new access arrangements onto Commonwealth Avenue Bridge, as well as times and places for face-to-face information sessions to keep the public informed and gather community feedback on the project.

The announcement and sessions, which comes prior to the formal submission of the project to the Parliamentary Work Committee in May, detail plans to strengthen and widen the bridge, as well as significantly upgrade the landscaping in the area.

While this is not part of a formal consultation, which will come later in the process, the NCA welcomes feedback at this stage of the project. To facilitate community discussion and information sharing, the public are invited to join NCA staff at pop-ups around the Lake.

Taking place at both Barrine Drive and Commonwealth Place at various time in the next busy school holiday week, these pop-ups are an opportunity for the public to pose direct questions to the project managers and receive in depth, detailed feedback.

Date	Time	Location
Thursday 13th April	9-11am	Commonwealth Place
Friday 14th April	9-11am	Barrine Drive
Saturday 15th April	9-11am	Commonwealth Place
Sunday 16th April	9-11am	Barrine Drive

Further to this, the NCA is opening a feedback line via their website, where the public can informally submit their comments on the designs directly to the project team.

Full project details can be found on the NCA website:

<https://www.nca.gov.au/environment/projects/current-projects/commonwealth-avenue-bridge-renewal-project-updates>

#### **Attributable to Sally Barnes, NCA Chief Executive:**

*"We have selected a design concept for the Bridge and access routes, and now we are interested to engage and talk to lake path users and get their initial feedback. With this information, we can refine*

*and finalise the design and really begin to see how the completed piece of work will add to the long-term transport needs of the city as well as the amenity and safe use of the area.*

*Many thanks to the ACT Government, Pedal Power and a range of organisations who have engaged with us and provided input to date.*

*There will be a formal statutory consultation process on the project later in the year. What we are doing now is giving the public an advanced look and asking that if they have any suggestions or concerns so we can factor that into our thinking”.*

Images are available for download here:

<https://nationalcapital.sharefile.com/d-s9ba68140e3bb429784b604729474a9ae>

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## Further Project Detail

### **What the Project Involves**

The project aims to enhance the bridge for modern pedestrian and vehicle traffic demands by widening and strengthening it, while also replacing safety barriers and handrails.

Additionally, new lighting will be installed, and the surrounding area will be landscaped to improve urban design and access to the bridge and Lake's foreshore.

### **Why the Project is Necessary**

The bridge does not have the capacity to cater for the weight of modern vehicles or expected future traffic growth, and without intervention, its integrity might be compromised. It's also a major route for almost 1,000 pedestrians and 2,000 cyclists during peak periods.

All four pedestrian approaches from lakeside to the bridge level will be enhanced, providing improved amenity and accessible connections along the existing lake loop.

### **Bridge Strengthening**

Analysis of the bridge strengthening was conducted to determine the extent of the strengthening work required to meet relevant design standards.

Work will increase the strength of the bridge to be in line with T44/L44 design load standards. This will involve strengthening around the piers by approximately 54% and by approximately 12% between the piers.

### **Bridge Widening**

The widening to the external side of each bridge structure maintains the overall symmetry. The extrusion of the existing form minimises the overall impact of the widening on the pair of bridges. The widening will support improved access to pedestrians and other active travel users. To complement the current bridge, the new extensions will reinforce the horizontal emphasis to complement the heritage fabric.

### **Active Travel Infrastructure**

The dedicated shared cycle and pedestrian pathway across the bridge will be extended to five meters to promote better access for pedestrians, cyclists, and users of active travel.