

Prince Alfred Bridge.

Just What is Going to Happen Repairs and a New Site.

Mr. Ken. Hoad, M.L.A., who has been active in the above matter, sends us the following ;

“Following on my repeated representations to the Main Roads Board relative to the necessity of re-opening the Prince Alfred bridge, I had a further interview with Messrs. Newell and Upton last week, in which they outlined the position as they see it.”

“The bridge was built way back in the sixties, and unfortunately its term of usefulness is drawing to a close. A detailed report from the District Engineer shows that the Iron structure is defective, as well as the long wooden approach.”

“To replace all defective timbers and to renew the iron affected by crystallisation would cost more than the structure would be worth as it was built to carry much lighter traffic than can be reasonably expected to use the 'Hume Highway' during the next 20 to 50 years.”

“The Board therefore came to the conclusion that the best course would be to immediately undertake repairs to the “river span” section, and to order the timber for the approach with a view to placing runners or strips down the centre which would enable ordinary motor and vehicular traffic to use the full bridge for a limited number of years, until a new structure could be provided ; and this they have determined upon.”

“The next question is the site of the new bridge and it would appear that the Board favor a site considerably removed from the present.”

“The tentative suggestion is to divert the Highway near the Hospital, and after crossing the river thence onwards until the present Highway is met over the second railway crossing, but they seem definite that for the future it will be necessary for heavy loads to leave the bridge and use the road over the flat.”

In view of the importance of these decisions to the people of Gundagai and district, I deem it important that they be made known as quickly as possible, so that the necessary steps may be taken to place any alternative scheme before the Board, should same be deemed advisable.”