



# Renmark Paringa Council

Media Release

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## Renmark Paringa Council exploring options for Twentyfirst Street Bridge

Twentyfirst Street is a significant connector between Renmark and Renmark West and Council is acutely aware of the impact this closure is causing for local businesses and residents.

In March 2022 (pre-flood) a regular engineering assessment of the bridge was undertaken by TMK Engineering and whilst it was not in excellent condition at that time, it was determined safe to use.

During the 2022 River Murray Flood, the Twentyfirst Street Bridge was inundated for approximately eight weeks, with high velocity water passing over and through the bridge. It was evident during this period that the roadway was acting as a low level weir, constraining the flow and increasing the water pressure under the bridge.

After the 2022 River Murray Flood, all major Council assets that were flood affected had to be assessed by an engineer prior to re-opening. TMK Engineering returned in March 2023 (post-flood) and undertook another engineering assessment, which then determined that due to damage sustained through the flood, it was no longer safe to use. This has now been independently confirmed by a second engineer from Tonkin Consulting and all three of these engineering reports are available on the Council's project website.

Council is working with Tonkin Consulting to develop options to not only replace the bridge but also partially relieve the constraint to flow, which will reduce the likelihood of damage in a future flood. In addition, Council is also exploring whether light use (pedestrians) could be permitted, or a temporary bridge constructed.

The replacement of an asset of this value requires a detailed investigation to identify all potential options and understand the cost and benefits of each. This will ensure that the design selected is the most cost effective and achieves the objectives of withstanding future flooding events.

Council is expecting to receive the design options in the near future and once selected, will likely seek funding assistance from the State Government to deliver the preferred design.

Mayor Peter Hunter said 'Whilst we are considering temporary options, we must not lose focus on the delivery of a permanent solution that will withstand any future flooding events.'

'Protecting the safety of our community will always be Council's highest priority. When there are reports from qualified, professional, and independent engineers suggesting that the bridge is not safe to be reopened, Council cannot reopen the bridge and put the safety of our community at risk.'



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For further information, including copies of the engineers reports please refer to the project website <https://www.renmarkparinga.sa.gov.au/services/flood-recovery-and-support/twentyfirst-street-bridge-recovery>

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