

# Old Murray Bridge Refurbishment Project

## Aboriginal Heritage and Engagement

**The Department for Infrastructure and Transport (the Department) is undertaking major refurbishment works on the Old Murray Bridge.**

As the first major bridge spanning the Murray River in South Australia, Old Murray Bridge is a significant State Heritage structure and requires major refurbishment to maintain its long-term structural integrity and extend its operational life. This South Australian Government funded project will increase the bridge's life span by an estimated 30 years.

### **How will the Old Murray Bridge Refurbishment Project consider Aboriginal Heritage?**

The Department recognises the traditional custodians of Moorundi (the River Murray) and their commitment and responsibility to the ongoing protection, management, and maintenance of Country. Engagement with the Ngarrindjeri community is paramount, and vital to the success of the project and highlights the importance of this area, while celebrating the Ngarrindjeri community's continued connection to Country.

The Department is committed to ongoing engagement with the Aboriginal community and their elected representatives. As a part of this engagement and recognition, the project includes the development and installation of interpretive signage to recognise the Ngarrindjeri community's links to the area.

The Department has undertaken an extensive process of consultation with the Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation, the Registered Native Title Body Corporate for the region. Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation has worked in collaboration with the Department throughout the planning and delivery of this project, guiding and driving a heritage management process that protects the cultural and heritage values of the area. Every effort has been, and will continue to be made, to avoid any impacts to Aboriginal sites, objects and remains as required by the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988*.

### **Strengthening local Aboriginal employment outcomes**



The Department is helping deliver sustainable employment outcomes across a range of trades for local Aboriginal people. As of June 2022, Aboriginal participation in the project makes up over 18% of the total project hours (more than 2318 employment hours).

Since the start of the project, 20 Aboriginal employees have contributed to the refurbishment of the bridge across trades including civil construction, mobile plant operation, general laboring, traffic control, heritage consultation, site monitoring and scaffolding.

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The project is also working to develop additional programs to further assist in finding meaningful employment pathways for local Aboriginal people.

#### FAST FACTS

- *Aboriginal employment participation is currently more than 18% to June 2022, with 20 people employed directly on the project.*
- *Trades include civil construction, mobile plant operation, general laboring, traffic control, heritage consultation, site monitoring and scaffolding.*



#### NAIDOC Week Walk for Reconciliation across the Old Murray Bridge



As a part of NAIDOC Week celebrations, members of the Department's Old Murray Bridge Refurbishment Project proudly took part in the annual Murray Bridge Walk, located on Ngarrindjeri country.

NAIDOC Week is a time for celebrating and recognising the histories, cultural knowledge and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. It is held each year during the first week of July and is an important annual event where everyone is invited to celebrate together as a Nation.

Each year NAIDOC week has a theme to build the celebrations around. In 2022, the theme is *Get Up! Stand Up! Show Up!* which focuses on a systemic change and importance of rallying around our mob, our Elders, our communities.

Whether it is seeking proper environmental, cultural and heritage protections, Constitutional change, a comprehensive process of truth-telling, working towards treaties, or calling out racism—we must do it together.

## OFFICIAL

Participating members from the Department and the project team were honoured to take part in this year's celebrations on Ngarrindjeri country with the local community.

NAIDOC Week celebrations in Murray Bridge began with the annual Bridge Walk, starting on the east side of the Old Murray Bridge, and concluding at the Local Government Centre for the flag raising and NAIDOC Awards Ceremony.

The project is committed to empowering local Aboriginal people as a key objective of the project, including maximising local Aboriginal employment outcomes and strengthening relationships with the Ngarrindjeri people.

### **Where can I find out more about the project?**

To find out more about the Old Murray Bridge Refurbishment Project, provide feedback or register to receive project updates, please:

- **call** 1300 794 880
- **visit** [www.dit.sa.gov.au/oldmurraybridge](http://www.dit.sa.gov.au/oldmurraybridge)
- **email** [dit.communityrelations@sa.gov.au](mailto:dit.communityrelations@sa.gov.au)
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