

# WIMMERA RIVERFRONT

## HAMILTON STREET BRIDGE

### The project

A pedestrian bridge connecting the east and west banks of the Wimmera River has been proposed for construction at the end of Hamilton Street. This will join the walking track connecting the Waterlink Estate on the eastern side of the river.

Council wants to ensure the community is informed about the project plan, its aims and where it fits into the wider plans to ensure Horsham is a vibrant, inclusive community to live, work, play and invest.

- 2013 Framework for managing growth
- 2017-21 Health and wellbeing plan
- 2019 Open space strategy
- 2019-23 Council plan
- 2019 City to River masterplan
- 2020 Horsham Urban transport plan

Public consultation has indicated strong support for this bridge.

### Context

The Wimmera River is Horsham's most significant natural asset. It is popular and well used.

With the rapid development of the residential estate to the south east of the river, there is a need for an additional pedestrian and bicycle crossing over the Wimmera River.

This will connect residential areas (approximately 2000 residents) with the central activity and business district as well as creating connections with four schools on the western side of the river.

### Where did the idea come from?

Proposals for a bridge across the Wimmera River at Hamilton Street date back to at least 2010 when the idea was raised in the Regional Transport Group's "Bridges to Recovery" strategy.

The need for a second pedestrian bridge crossing the Wimmera River in Horsham has been identified in several strategies, including:

### What has the community said about the idea?

*Like the connection between the Waterlink estate and central Horsham via the footbridge. Needs to be completed to allow for school access and hospital access and also park areas*

*The footbridge is also fantastic from a personal standpoint as it will make it far easier for me to get to work and will encourage me to walk or cycle to work*

*With three schools located within one or two street blocks of the river, sections of the existing riverside pathway are already serving a role in active transport for cycling and scooting students. The proximity of the Wimmera Base Hospital and a retirement complex add to the significance of the river corridor for universal access and mobility vehicle use*



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## Who will it benefit?

Background planning has identified that at least 800 house lots, and potentially 2000 people will directly benefit from a bridge at the proposed location.

Along with offering an alternative to car-based commuting, the bridge will also create an additional circuit for cyclists and pedestrians exercising along the river and will create options for shorter and longer routes.

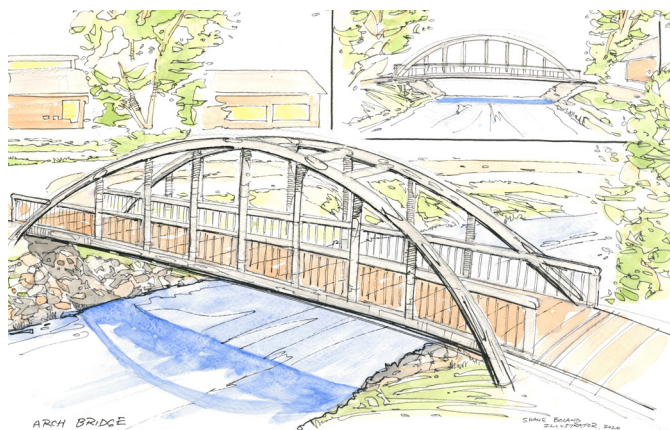
## What will it look like?

An artist's sketch has been created which indicates the design best suited for the location.

The bridge will have a span of 80m and will be 15m high at its mid-point.

An arch-shaped bridge design is better suited to the location at Hamilton Street because of the limited space on the approaches to the bridge.

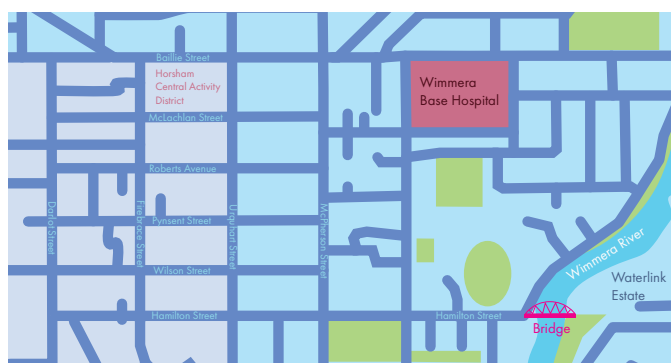
The arch is considered to be aesthetically pleasing and complements the natural beauty of the Wimmera River and surrounding vegetation.



## Why Hamilton Street?

Eight potential locations for a bridge upstream of the Western Highway bridge have been considered, however, other options have not been preferred generally because they were either too close to the Western Highway bridge or did not directly serve a residential area on the east side of the river.

Hamilton Street has been identified as the preferred site because it does meet these requirements, linking residents to schools, workplaces and the Horsham Central Activity District.



## Is there a timeline?

At this stage, geotechnical studies are underway and funding for the project is still being sought. As the project develops the community will be updated on progress via the HRCC Our Say web page.

## Want to learn more?

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