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SAMPLE PANEL OF NEW LONG GULLY BRIDGE SAFETY FENCE

Work on building the new Long Gully Bridge safety fence is progressing, with the RTA offering residents an opportunity to see a sample panel of the fence.

The RTA understands the local interest in this important safety project and wants to provide residents with an update on the project," an RTA spokesperson said.

"The RTA will be holding an information session on 6 February where locals can talk to RTA representatives and see a section of the new safety fence.

"This will show what the fence will look like and is part of the RTA's efforts to keep residents informed.

"People can visit the Northbridge Oval car park between 10am-3pm on Saturday 6 February 2009 to see the design.

"The chosen curved design provides an effective safety fence which has been designed to minimise the heritage, visual and architectural impact on the bridge and keeps the bridge looking as close as possible to its original design," the spokesperson said.

The \$1.5 million fence will be built off-site to minimise traffic disruptions before being attached to the bridge.

The RTA has placed the results of a review of environmental factors on its website.

The spokesperson said the RTA was moving quickly to build a safety fence after recommendations from the NSW Coroner and consultation with community groups, police and heritage experts.

"The RTA is aware of the heritage values of the Long Gully Bridge which is the reason why the RTA has employed trained bridge engineers and the NSW Government Architect Office to develop the most appropriate design solution which respects the heritage values of the bridge."

The safety fence will be steel picket fence similar to fences used at historical sites in Australia such as around the Royal Botanic Gardens.

"The curved steel fence provides a 2 metre high barrier above the existing bridge wall. The curved fence provides a softer appearance when viewed from the road or further away.

"The safety fence has been carefully designed to minimise visual impacts from the bridge and from the aspect of surrounding residents.

NSW Police North Shore Local Area Commander Superintendent Terrence Dalton agreed with the RTA that safety must take priority.

“The shape, design and materials used to build the bridge have made finding a safety fence that would be sympathetic the bridge while improving safety a lengthy process,” the RTA spokesperson said.

The RTA is expecting the safety fence to be installed by the end of May, weather permitting.

CONTACT:

RTA Media Unit 8588 5999
