

Media Release

Monday, 24 December, 2018

Golden Ball Bridge to re-open for light vehicles

The Beechworth-Wangaratta Road will re-open to light traffic early in the New Year across Golden Ball Bridge, Hodgson's Creek, following this month's unprecedented flash flooding.

Installation of a Bailey Bridge is expected to commence by this weekend, as Regional Roads Victoria (RRV) crews work to restore single lane access.

RRV North Eastern Regional Director Nicki Kyriakou said detours to Beechworth have been in place since significant structural damage was identified on the Golden Ball Bridge after the flash flooding.

"We started investigating the Bailey Bridge option as soon as the extent of the damage became clear," Ms Kyriakou said.

"We're very pleased to have this solution for the community so soon after the event – and we're extremely grateful to the team who will work around the clock to get the bridge operational."

Described as being like a big Meccano set for adults, installation of the 70-foot Bailey Bridge will begin from the Beechworth side of Hodgson's Creek, before being lifted fully into place.

"Once the bridge is up and running, the road will be operational via a single lane for light vehicles, buses and Emergency Services vehicles including fire trucks," Ms Kyriakou said.

"To ensure the safety of all road users, speed will be reduced on the advance of the bridge in both directions, with traffic lights operational, Variable Messaging Signs in place and a lower speed set over the bridge itself.

"We're asking everyone to be aware of changed traffic conditions in the area, and share this news with family and friends travelling to Beechworth this summer."

RRV engineers are continuing with designs and timelines to fix the permanent structure and will keep the community updated as this progresses.

"While the detours have been in place, we're been working with Beechworth Chamber of Commerce and Indigo Shire Council to help support the message that Beechworth is open for business," Ms Kyriakou said.

Until the Bailey Bridge opens, Beechworth remains accessible via Beechworth-Chiltern Road or Buckland Gap Road.

For the latest traffic information around the state visit traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au or download the VicTraffic app via your app store. If you see any hazards on our roads, please report them to the VicRoads Traffic Management Centre on 13 11 70, open 24/7. In an emergency, call Triple Zero.

-ends-

Regional Roads Victoria – North Eastern

Lucy Bowler, Media Advisor, 0437 309 511