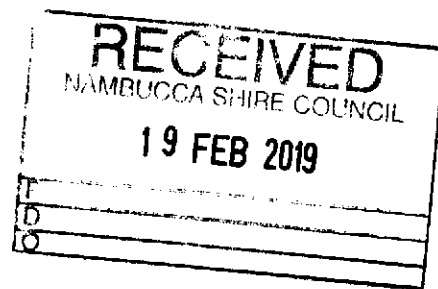




NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE
Eungai



General Manager
Nambucca Shire Council
PO Box 177
Macksville NSW 2447

BR-EU-44

05/02/2019

Dear Michael

REQUEST FOR FEEDBACK ON FUTURE OF FISCHERS BRIDGE.

The Eungai Rural Fire Brigade strongly supports the replacement of Fischers Bridge over Eungai Creek.

The Tamban locality is effectively enclosed by heavily forested Nature Reserve, State Forest and several heavily timbered privately owned blocks, and as a consequence most local roads have sections that are timbered on both sides and would be impassable when there was fire in them.

Fire from the north or west would impact Elliotts Rd and the inability to use Fischers Bridge would affect our ability to access fires in a timely manner. For example, tankers deployed to the eastern side of such a fire needing to redeploy to the west or south would need to travel via Tamban Rd to Eungai Creek and then on to Kesbys Rd, Southbank Rd, etc. What would take 5 minutes via Fischers Bridge would take upwards of 20 minutes and impact negatively on our ability to defend properties in the area.

Such a fire could also conceivably impact Elliotts Rd and Tamban Rd (near McKays Rd) simultaneously, cutting off all escape routes for crews in the absence of Fischers Bridge.

Elliotts Rd is narrow, winding and has 3 bridge crossings. Low visibility from smoke on such a road greatly increases the chances of collision, especially if residents are also fleeing the area at the same time. An accident on this road could easily render it impassable, with potentially tragic consequences.

Similar issues would arise in the event of a fire from the south or the east. Southbank and Tamban Rds could be impacted, forcing crews to use Partridges, Searles and Elliotts Rds, all of which are unsuited because of their narrow and winding nature.

The Brigade is also called upon to assist other agencies in time of flood and storm. Fischers bridge is the only high level bridge in the area. In times of local flooding, the absence of Fischers Bridge would mean that the brigade would not be able to access the Tamban area, and members who live in the area would not be able to reach the brigade.

>

Steven Hughes
Captain
Eungai Rural Fire Brigade