

# Rebuilding the Thurra River Bridge

April 2024 Update

After being destroyed by both bushfire and floods, the Thurra River Bridge in East Gippsland is being rebuilt to stand up better against future disasters.

## What happened to the Thurra River Bridge?

The Thurra River Bridge was damaged during the 2019/2020 Black Summer Bushfires, with two wooden piers failing due to significant fire damage.



*Fire damaged Thurra River Bridge*

The bridge was then further damaged during the April 2022 floods in East Gippsland.

Extensive damage to the surrounding areas and the access road meant that the bridge debris could not be cleared until September 2022.



*Flood damaged Thurra River Bridge*

The floods also changed the course of the river, requiring updated assessments and engineering plans to inform the new bridge design.

## What's happening now?

Demolition work is now underway and lead contractor BMD Group are working on the detailed design which will enable construction of the new bridge.

Locals and visitors to the area may see increased traffic, with trucks and heavy vehicles accessing the site frequently from April 2024 until the project is completed.

An information pack has been distributed to local community groups and stakeholders to advise of works commencement and changed road conditions. This is supported by signage at key locations to notify road users about:

- Closure of Point Hicks Road from Point Hicks Road and Bald Hill Track Junction
- Heavy vehicle traffic on Tamboon Road and Point Hicks Road from Cann River
- Road works along Thurra Road

The project is scheduled for completion by late 2025.

The bridge provides access to the Thurra River Campground which is expected to be reopened once the bridge has been reinstated.

## Project timeline

**May 2022 to June 2023** – pre-tender engineering and planning completed.

**July 2023** – tender for construction released.

**Late 2023** – contract awarded to the BMD Group.

**April 2024** – works on-site begin including demolition of existing bridge.

**Late 2025** – project due for completion.