

## **6.09. NOTICE OF MOTION - MOWBRAY RIVER ACCESS**

**COUNCILLOR:** Cr Abigail Noli

### **NOTICE OF MOTION:**

I hereby give Notice of my intention to move the following Motion at the Council meeting scheduled for Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2016:-

**"Council maintains open access for public use the road on the southern side of the Mowbray River that leads to the Mowbray River old Bridge. Council will be responsible for the road's upkeep and maintenance."**

### **BACKGROUND:**

Nil.

### **OFFICER'S COMMENT:**

The Mowbray River Fishing Jetty was located on Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR) controlled land, although Council had at some time in the past acquired responsibility for the old bridge structure, known as the Fishing Jetty.

The road to the old bridge comprises the remnants of the old highway at this location and was not removed after the new bridge was installed. Its current purpose was only to provide access to the Fishing Jetty.

With removal of the Fishing Jetty (refer to the report contained within main body of 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2016 Council meeting agenda), the immediate and sole reason for providing access is no longer required.

In addition, removal of the Fishing Jetty superstructure has left the southern abutment and concrete/rock embankment now exposed. Whilst not considered to present more of a hazard than the natural river embankment, the Infrastructure Services department wishes to discourage access to this area until a decision on the future of the area is determined and the appropriate infrastructure is either installed or the area returned to a road verge.

Temporary barriers have been installed to reduce Council liability exposure. These could be made into a more permanent barrier if required and a determination will be made depending on the success or otherwise of the temporary barriers.

It is noted that rubbish dumping and illegal camping have also been issues in this area and the opportunity to reduce or eliminate these issues (although unintended) has presented itself with the Fishing Jetty removal.

Council has a Road Maintenance Performance Contract (RMPC) with the Department of Transport and Main Roads with our boundary of works being the southern abutment of the current Mowbray River road bridge.

Council is paid by DTMR for maintenance and repair activities it undertakes under the RMPC.

Road assets south of the Mowbray River road bridge are DTMR's responsibility and hence cost.

The suggested notice of motion will increase the area of road maintenance responsibility of Council and discussion with DTMR would be required to determine if it is prepared to include this in the RMPC and hence pay for the costs. If not, then DTMR's permission to undertake upkeep and maintenance would be required and the costs would need to be borne by ratepayers.