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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **National Trust supports the ACT Government's plans for Tharwa Bridge**

The ACT National Trust welcomes the decision announced yesterday by the Chief Minister to allocate further funding for the conservation of Tharwa Bridge.

National Trust Heritage Officer, Dr Peter Dowling, said the bridge, opened on 27 March 1895, has been Classified by the National Trust since September 1980 and was placed on the ACT Heritage Register in February 1996.

“We have been very concerned over the future conservation and use of this heritage listed bridge for many years and this announcement by the ACT Government is a positive step which will preserve it into the future.”

Last year the National Trust conducted a public survey asking if the bridge should be retained and repaired rather than a replacement bridge be constructed. The results were overwhelming in favour of retention.

At a meeting held in Tharwa Hall last night residents were informed by the ACT Government of the next two stages of work on the bridge and of the expected future closures. Dr Dowling, noted a very positive response from the Tharwa residents at the meeting. They were willing to accept the inconvenience of future closures in order to have the bridge returned to its original form.

Stage two of the construction which will begin this year will see further strengthening of the structure and in 2010 the upper superstructure, including the familiar trusses, and the timber decking will be completed.

Yesterday was another good news day for the Tharwa bridge and the heritage of the ACT.

For further information contact: Dr Peter Dowling 6230 0533 or 0417 233 194