



ACT Heritage Council

## Entry to the ACT Heritage Register

*Heritage Act 2004*

### **20036. Tharwa Bridge**

The area bridging Murrumbidgee River and adjacent land as identified as part of H36

**District of TUGGERANONG**

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This entry which was previously part of the old heritage places or the old heritage objects registers (as defined in the *Heritage Act 2004*), as the case may be, is taken to be registered under the *Heritage Act 2004*.

Conservation Requirements (including Specific Requirements), as defined under the *Heritage Act 2004*, that are contained within this document are taken to be Heritage Guidelines applying to this place or object, as the case may be.

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## 36. Tharwa Bridge [V66]<sup>1</sup>

### Location

District of Tuggeranong, the area bridging the Murrumbidgee River and adjacent land as identified in Figure 36 and indicated on the Territory Plan Map by the Heritage Places Register Overlay at H36.

### Features Intrinsic To The Heritage Significance Of The Place:

The place comprises a four span Allan truss bridge and associated approach spans and concrete piers.

### Statement Of Significance

The bridge and its site are historically and technically significant because of the Allan truss structure, having form and structural integrity, which have survived virtually intact. It is the archetypal example of the application of the new technology by Percy Allan to the construction of timber road bridges in New South Wales, during a major development phase for bridge and road construction during the last decade of the 19th century. It is the oldest standing bridge structure in the ACT.

Tharwa Bridge is highly valued by the local community as an integral part of the Village of Tharwa. It continues to contribute in social, economic and aesthetic terms to the community. The bridge and its site have associative significance with the period of 19th century European settlement and development of the region. The bridge has provided a high level crossing point adjacent to Tharwa village, allowing the Murrumbidgee River to be traversed even when in flood. The bridge is significant in its contribution to the landscape and in its relationship with the river, the village of Tharwa and the hills beyond.

### Specific Requirements

In accordance with s.54(1) of the *Land(Planning and Environment) Act* 1991, the following requirements are identified as essential to the conservation of the heritage significance of this place. These requirements are prepared to implement the following conservation policy for the place:

The four-span Allan truss section of the bridge is to be conserved, with the retention of the construction details and as much existing fabric as is feasible. The more modern approach spans and the concrete piers shall be retained and appropriately conserved. Tharwa Bridge shall continue to be used as a bridge crossing for vehicular traffic, and shall remain the only such crossing at Tharwa, subject to it meeting the safety requirements of the relevant authorities.

#### i) Construction Materials and Design

- a) Original material used in the construction of the bridge is to be preserved and retained as long as is feasible. New materials used in the maintenance of the structure are to match the existing as closely as is feasible.
- b) The original form and details as currently exist are to be maintained. Any new components are to match the existing form and engineering configuration. The bridge is to retain its existing width, height and length.

#### ii) Requirements Relating to Use

- a) Use of the bridge shall be controlled so that the conservation of the bridge is not jeopardised. Load and speed limits on the bridge are to be maintained to control wear and tear of the bridge fabric.

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<sup>1</sup> [V66: Added to Heritage Places Register 30/10/1998 (Variation Number 66)]

Figure 36: Tharwa Bridge: Location

