



Bill Shannon

THIS is the first look at the \$20 million bridge that will replace Innisfail's closed Jubilee Bridge.

And Cassowary Coast Council Mayor Bill Shannon says the new two-lane bridge is "cheap" and will last more than 100 years.

The weakening Jubilee Bridge was closed to all traffic apart from pedestrians last week.

Cr Shannon said construction on the new, strong and sturdy bridge "starts immediately".

"We've already put in the orders for steel liners from Korea and they are the best in the world," Cr Shannon said.

"The whole idea is for the bridge

Carenda Jenkin

jenkinca@tcp.newsltd.com.au

to be built during the dry season."

The council faces a shortfall of \$7.25 million after the State Government committed \$14 million.

Cr Shannon said a \$5.8 million loan would have to be taken out from the Queensland Treasury Corporation.

And that would mean a rates rise of less than 2 per cent.

Since the bridge's closure, people are walking along the Jubilee "more than ever before", Cr Shannon said.

unsafe and was closed to all traffic by Cassowary Coast Council last week.

"They are parking their cars on the eastern side and walking across the bridge to work," he said. "The extra pedestrian traffic is good and we want to keep it open as long as we can for the pensioners and school kids that use it."

He said the only time it would close if a "trigger" event such as a cyclone or flood should happen.

Cr Shannon said due to the foot traffic increase, council will build two temporary taxi ranks on the eastern side of the old bridge.

Tully Chamber of Commerce president John Hughes said it was inevitable the council would build a new bridge.

But he said with the council's upcoming budget, it had an extremely difficult job ahead of it.

"People are going to look at their next rates bill with considerable interest," Mr Hughes said.

The council voted to accept a \$15.7 million tender from bridge constructors BMD/Albem to build a wider two-lane bridge about 5m upstream from the Jubilee Bridge.

It also approved a \$954,000 tender from Rocia for pre-stressed concrete bridge deck units.

A name for the new bridge is yet to be decided.

i FUNDING

- The State Government has committed \$14 million. It also provided \$345,000 for roundabouts at either end of the bridge.
- The council will have to take out a Queensland Treasury Corporation loan of \$5.8 million.
- The rest of the funding would come from the council's northern roads levy (\$657,000), its water program (\$200,000), sewerage program (\$70,000) and general revenue (\$528,000).