

Item name: South Arm Bridge over Simpsons Creek**Location:** Brunswick Heads 2483

Byron

Address:**Planning:** Northern**Suburb/nearest town:** Brunswick Heads 2483**Local govt area:** Byron**Parish:****State:** NSW**County:****Other/former names:****Area/group/complex:****Group ID:****Aboriginal area:****Curtilage/boundary:** Spans the Simpsons Creek from Mullumbimbi Street to South Arm Beach Road.**Item type:** Built**Group:** Transport - Water**Category:****Owner:** Local Government**Admin codes:****Code 2:****Code 3:****Current use:** Bridge**Former uses:** Bridge**Assessed significance:** Local**Endorsed significance:** Local

Statement of significance: This bridge constructed in 1958-59 is of historical, aesthetic and social significance. It is historically significant in the development of the town, built originally to transport rock wall boulders to build the south wall breakwater. Aesthetically it has landmark qualities over the South Arm (Simpsons Creek) and retains its traditional timber aesthetic qualities. The timber construction style of the bridge contributes strongly to the character of the village precinct and it held in high regard by the local community.

Historical notes Local Background

of provenance: Brunswick Heads is a significant Aboriginal place and part of lands of the Bundjalung people and the place of the earliest European settlement in Byron Shire. The precinct is historically significant for its evolution as a settlement in response to historical, social, economic and transportation factors, having connection to early cedar getting, the fishing industry and a historical use for recreation and holiday destination. Prior to European settlement, Brunswick Heads was part of the territory of the original inhabitants of the area, the Bundjalung people. As Europeans moved to the district, Brunswick Heads became one of the earliest ports in what is now Byron Shire, and by the 1850's, some raw materials (timber, tallow, whale oil) were being shipped to state (Sydney), national and international markets, and many new settlers, foodstuffs and necessities found their way into the district via Brunswick Heads. Dairying provided the greatest impetus to the settlement by Europeans of the region, and in the 1890's, when Brunswick Heads was bypassed by the Casino to Murwillumbah railway line, the town as a major port was eclipsed by the port of Byron Bay. By the 1920's, the major industries were fishing (with a well established local fishing fleet) and tourism, with a local river transport system (drogher lighters) supporting the upriver dairy industry. The expansion of Brunswick Heads was affected by flooding, swampland to the west and the course of the river itself. The Pacific Highway was routed through the town for more than 50 years, but now bypasses the town which has left a township with a substantially intact architectural heritage, and with an atmosphere and charm unique in the Shire.

This Item

The South Arm Bridge was constructed in 1958-59 for the purpose of transporting rock boulders for the construction of the south wall breakwater to protect fishing boats and marine vessels. This which was endorsed by specific legislation BRUNSWICK HEADS HARBOUR WORKS ACT.A c No. 41 , 1960 .to sanction and to provide for the carrying outworks for the Brunswick Heads Harbour; 4th November,1960.

Themes: **National theme**

3. Economy

4. Settlement

State theme

Transport

Towns, suburbs and villages

Local theme

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Designer:

Builder:

Year started: 1958

Year completed: 1959

Circa: No

Physical description: The South Arm bridge is a 7 spanned, 6.15m wide x 63m long bridge supported on timber piles. The piles have been encased with concrete sleeves and sand to protect them from marine borers damage. A detailed description of the restoration and reconstruction work is provided on the referenced webpage Timberss.com <https://timberss.com/the-south-arm-bridge-an-upgraded-timber-bridge-in-australia/>

Physical condition level: Excellent

Physical condition: Upgraded to increase its loading from 10 tonne to 44 tonne traffic loading capacity, the work has been carried out with a high degree of sympathy to the timber construction and aimed to maximise reuse of recycled log timbers at the Council stockyard from past demolished bridges, as part of the reconstruction. Whilst much of the original material has been replaced due to defective timbers, the aesthetic and landscape values of the bridge have been carefully retained.

Archaeological potential level:

Archaeological potential Detail:

Modification dates: Upgraded to increase loading and traffic loading in 2020 Timber Restoration Services (TRS).

Recommended management:

Management:	Management category	Management name
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Further comments:

Criteria a): The South Arm bridge is historically significant in the development of Brunswick Heads being constructed with [Historical significance] the role of transporting rock wall boulders to build the south wall breakwater. It then evolved to a road bridge to connect the town to the beach.

Criteria b): [Historical association significance]

Criteria c): The bridge has aesthetic significance for its landmark qualities and retention of timber material which give it a distinct identity and character. [Aesthetic/Technical significance]

Criteria d): The bridge is held in high regard by the local community and strongly valued. [Social/Cultural significance]

Criteria e): [Research significance]

Criteria f): The bridge is rare locally and one of a diminishing number in the state due to changes of technology and construction techniques. [Rarity]

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Criteria g): The bridge is a representative example of a timber bridge with several spans.
[Representative]**Intactness/Integrity:** Moderate. Much fabric has been replaced due to deterioration coupled with technology to fibreglass and protect the piers.

References:	Author	Title	Year
	Timber Restoration Services	The South Arm Bridge, An upgraded timber bridge project in A	2020
		Brunswick Heads Breakwater Opened 1962 Premier Opens Â£:	1962

Studies:	Author	Title	Number	Year
	Donald Ellsmore and Ian	Byron Shire Community Based Heritage Study		2005
	Clarence Heritage	Historic Heritage Assessment Brunswick Heads		2021

Parcels:	Parcel code	Lot number	Section number	Plan code	Plan number
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Latitude:**Longitude:****Location validity:****Spatial accuracy:****Map name:****Map scale:****AMG zone:****Easting:****Northing:****Listing: Name****Title**
Potential Heritage Item**Number****ListingDate****Data entry:** Data first entered: 21/01/2022

Data updated: 21/01/2022

Status: Basic

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Image:



Caption: South Arm Bridge

Copy right:

Image by: D. Wray

Image date: 13/05/2021

Image number:

Image url: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/345418b66f62fac4e4d935756b4f0dcafa7.jpg>

Thumbnail url: http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/T_humb_test345418b66f62fac4e4d935756b4f0dcafa7.jpg

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Caption: South Arm Bridge rail detail

Copy right:

Image by: D. Wray

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Image number:

Image url: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/345abfd1bbd24b24201a3e0ea5a3b428e01.jpg>

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