

Statement from the Whadjuk Elders Advisory Group

Whadjuk Elders have expressed their concerns about the significance of the Derbarl Yerrigan (Swan River), and the impact to the river, particularly the water and riverbed. Piers, or pylons, provide structural integrity to a bridge and historic timber bridges relied on more piers than modern designs.

The existing traffic bridge has 28 piers, with 24 in the water. During consultations with Whadjuk Elders we have heard how these structures are culturally disruptive because they interfere with the flow of water and disturb the movement of songlines and totems through the area.

The Whadjuk Elders have asked the bridge designers to minimise the number of piers in the water with the design of the new bridges, for both road and rail.

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Whadjuk Traditional Owners