

Bridging communities

THE long-awaited bridge to connect Treendale and Millbridge has been funded as part of state government budget announcements last week.

The \$24 million project will see the state contribute \$18 million and the Harvey and Dardanup shires put in \$6 million.

Member for Murray-Wellington Murray Cowper said Treendale, Kingston, Millbridge and Eaton residents would benefit from the connectivity of the bridge and it would take pressure off Old Coast Road as well as Forrest Highway.

“It was a promise at the last election and notwithstanding the challenging fiscal environment we’ve come through on this one,” Mr Cowper said.

Bunbury MLA John Castrilli said the cost of the bridge was originally to have been met by the two shires, with a special development levy placed on block sales in the Millbridge and Treendale subdivisions.

“However, as time went on, civil construction prices continued growing and it became clear that the funding which the

shires were holding in reserve would not be enough to build the bridge,” Mr Castrilli said.

“During my time as local government minister, I organised a series of meetings which eventually decided the State Government would help fund it, because we could see the need for the bridge in terms of transport efficiency and road safety.”

Mr Castrilli said there were some major engineering challenges for the project because of the soft soil, but it was expected that construction would start in early 2016 and be completed in late 2017.