



Residents including Marj Thomas (centre front) are rapt council will rebuild the pedestrian bridge over Kananook Creek near Beckwith Grove, Seaford. Picture: Jason Sammon

South East

Frankston Council to rebuild pedestrian bridge at Seaford after copping backlash from residents

Christian Tatman, Frankston Standard Leader
an hour ago

PEOPLE power has won after councillors promised to rebuild a historic pedestrian bridge over Kananook Creek at Seaford.

Council initially claimed a consultation process showed some residents didn't want the demolished bridge to be rebuilt.

But councillors got the message after hundreds of residents signed a petition calling for its replacement.

An angry Marj Thomas slammed the council's consultation process as flawed.

"Council gave an undertaking to the community to rebuild the bridge," she told councillors at their recent meeting.

"Naturally the community was happy with this position. Once the bridge was removed council changed their position."

Ms Thomas pleaded with councillors to commit to funding the reconstruction of the footbridge immediately.

Mayor James Dooley later told the *Leader* that initial response to the consultation indicated some people didn't want it rebuilt.

"Sometimes community consultation is not as extensive."

But he said it was now clear that an overwhelming number of residents wanted the bridge rebuilt.

"We have listened. People want the bridge. As time went on the response got stronger," Cr Dooley said.

Councillors voted unanimously to rebuild the bridge, near Beckwith Grove, "like for like" this financial year.

The small, timber bridge was closed last December and subsequently demolished due to safety concerns.

Council officers have estimated that a "like for like" replacement will cost \$180,000.