

Ownership fight brews

‘The citizens of Liverpool enjoy 80 per cent use of that bridge compared to people in Bankstown’

Cr Ian Stromborg

A FEUD has erupted between Bankstown and Liverpool councils over ownership of the footbridge on the border of Voyager Point and East Hills.

The Federal Government wants to pass on the management of the Georges River Footbridge to both councils, but neither is willing to compromise on a “fair” ratio.

At present, the ownership ratio is 50-50, pending further negotiation. Several Bankstown councillors – including Mayor Tania Mihailuk – voiced their concerns with this number at last week’s public meeting.

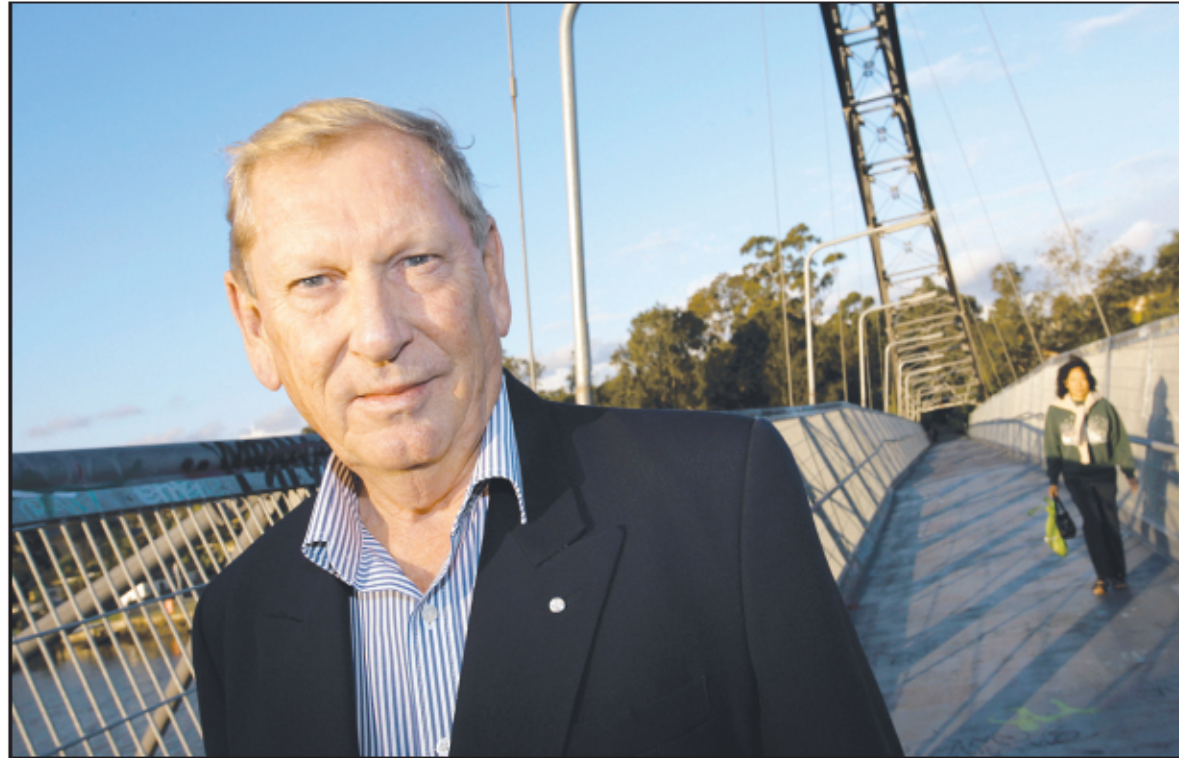
“We put forward 10 per cent and Liverpool have come back and said 50,” Labor councillor Allan Winterbottom said at the meeting.

“How do you go from 10 per cent to 50?”

Cr Winterbottom’s west ward colleague Ian Stromborg said after the meeting that it was an unfair proposal by Liverpool Council.

“The bridge was put there on the Liverpool side to give people access to East Hills station,” Cr Stromborg said.

“The citizens of Liverpool enjoy



Cr Ian Stromborg wants to bridge the problem of the the Georges River Footbridge.

Picture: NICK BLOUKOS

80 per cent use of that bridge compared to people in Bankstown.

“Liverpool Council are not prepared to budge beyond 50 per cent but we’ve asked council staff to negotiate with them again and report back to us.”

Cr Mihailuk agreed.

“The majority of residents benefiting from this footbridge live in

the Liverpool local government area and I will expect the final maintenance agreement to reflect this,” she said.

Liverpool Council did not respond to questions before deadline.

A Liverpool Council spokeswoman said a media response had been prepared but the

general manager was unavailable to approve it before press.

The response will be posted at www.theexpress.com.au this week.

Cr Stromborg also cited the bridge as a liability after he saw boys climb the arch.

NATHAN KLEIN

Cr rails at the decision to build fence



A RAILING installed along the Cooks River for cyclists’ safety has been branded ugly and a neurotic measure by a Canterbury councillor who wants it torn down.

The Environment and Climate Change Department added sections of steel railing at Ewen Park, Hurlstone Park.

Cr Linda Eisler is riled because one section of the fence is embedded in sandstone wall.

“This is meant to be a place of beauty,” she said.

“I know it may sound trivial but I got great pleasure seeing the beautiful sandstone.

“How much are you going to protect people at the expense of a fence?”

“Why do we have to deface it?”

“Why do we have to be so neurotic about protecting people?”

Cr Eisler said some of the fence was near where a cafe would be built “and it’s ugly”.

Canterbury Mayor Robert Furolo said the railing was a sound safety measure.

“As a father, I know kids ride along the Cooks River and I would want to see them safe,” he said.