



\$460,000 upgrade to Round Hill bridge

TWO Wheatbelt bridges which link the region to Great Northern Highway will be upgraded.

Agricultural Region MLC Brian Ellis said Ertech Pty Ltd had been awarded an \$800,000 contract to refurbish the Round Hill Bridge on the Moora-Miling Road, and the Peel Terrace Bridge on Peel Terrace.

Mr Ellis, a former Moora deputy shire president, recently returned to the district to commemorate the 10-year anniversary of the devastating Moora floods which left Round Hill bridge and much of the district under water.

Mr Ellis and the then shire president Michael Bates were responsible for evacuating the town, which was flooded three times in four months.

"The Round Hill bridge was built in the 1970s and was swamped during

floods," Mr Ellis said.

"Its banks collapsed, isolating to town of Miling and the outlying district, cutting off critical access to the

Great Northern Highway.

"The new bridgeworks will involve construction of a reinforced concrete overlay, widening of the bridge deck and reconstruction of the road approaches, to work into the higher bridge.

"The refurbishment will also provide significant benefit to local farmers by allowing more economic transport of grain and other agricultural products.

"It needs strengthening to cater for the increasing number of heavy combination vehicles using the road to transport grain and agricultural lime sands."

The project was funded through a

combination of Federal \$127,923, State \$222,069 and Local Government money. Council's contribution is from its Federal Infrastructure Grant allocation, and the Roads to Recovery program.

Mr Ellis said Peel Terrace bridge was even older than Round Hill Bridge, having been built in 1959.

"This bridge needs some structural maintenance including pile repairs," Mr Ellis said.

"The works will provide improved safety for the many motorists using these roads and will significantly increase the lifespan of the bridges."

The works are scheduled to run from May to August this year.

The project will be managed by Main Roads WA on behalf of the Shires of Moora and Northam.