

INQUIRY INTO WINDSOR BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Name: Ms Janice Ross

Date received: 4 December 2017

I am a recent resident who travels an hour and a half to work and again on the way home from work who uses the Windsor Bridge in that travel.

I am also a life-long repeat visitor to Windsor because of its historical ambience and family history with original settlers buried nearby at McGraths Hill. My youth was spent skiing the river from local boat ramps and attending the local hotels to enjoy the relaxed sociability and music scene.

I am of the generation who wants to continue to believe that our elected representatives are chosen to serve the people. However, the recent decision of the NSW State Government to wilfully waste tax-payer monies in the construction of a new bridge which does not fix the problems it is supposedly intended to do, generates in me and others a lamentable cynicism that this government does not intend to serve the people in this instance. That archaeological work is continuing despite this commission bears testimony to the legitimacy of the Hawkesbury people's cynicism.

The proposed bridge which has been consistently and continuously opposed for more than four years will not fix the problems of traffic or flood or future development for the Hawkesbury area. In fact, it will add to the problems of traffic, do nothing to alleviate traffic concerns during floods and destroy perhaps the oldest historical remains of early British settlement.

What is required is a by-pass. My understanding is that the current bridge will survive another 100 years if trucks are removed. Truck drivers need a by-pass for greater ease of manoeuvrability around Windsor. Car drivers need a by-pass to avoid the traffic congestion created by the in-coming roads to Windsor. Hawkesbury residents need a by-pass over the creeks which overflow and flood the surrounding areas long before the actual river floods. I have vivid memories of standing near McGraths Hill overlooking the impassable route to Windsor during a flood. A new Windsor bridge to replace the current bridge will not and can not be of any benefit during a flood. I have spoken to many engineering professionals who shake their heads over this decision.

I understand there have been other more viable options which will help to alleviate traffic and flood problems, keep trucks from the city centre, preserve our heritage, consider future development and most importantly, serve the people. These options include by-passes. The extra money spent will be tax-payer money - meant to be spent for the good of the people. God knows who the current proposal serves. But it's not the people.