## INQUIRY INTO WINDSOR BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Name: Ms Venecia Wilson

**Date received**: 7 December 2017

I make this submission under 1 (b) vi. planning and procurement strategies and associated project costs of the Terms of Reference of the Inquiry into the Windsor Bridge Replacement Project under Portfolio Committee No. 5.

The Hawkesbury community have been calling for a bypass for decades. The NSW Government says there's no money for one, which is odd really, considering there is no actual 'budget' for the Windsor Bridge Replacement Project.

It "will be funded until completed" according to Dominic Perrottet, the Member for Hawkesbury and NSW Treasurer, in writing, to a constituent on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2017.



Ref 16/0923

Dear

Please find attached a response to the representations I made on your behalf to the Hon. Melinda Pavey MP, Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, in relation to the Windsor Bridge replacement project.

I am advised the budget for the project is still being finalised and when the construction contract is awarded, the work will be funded until it is completed.

Should you have any further queries, , Project Manager at Roads and Maritime, would be pleased to take your call on

Thank you for taking the time to contact me regarding this matter. If there is anything further which I can assist you with, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Yours sincerely

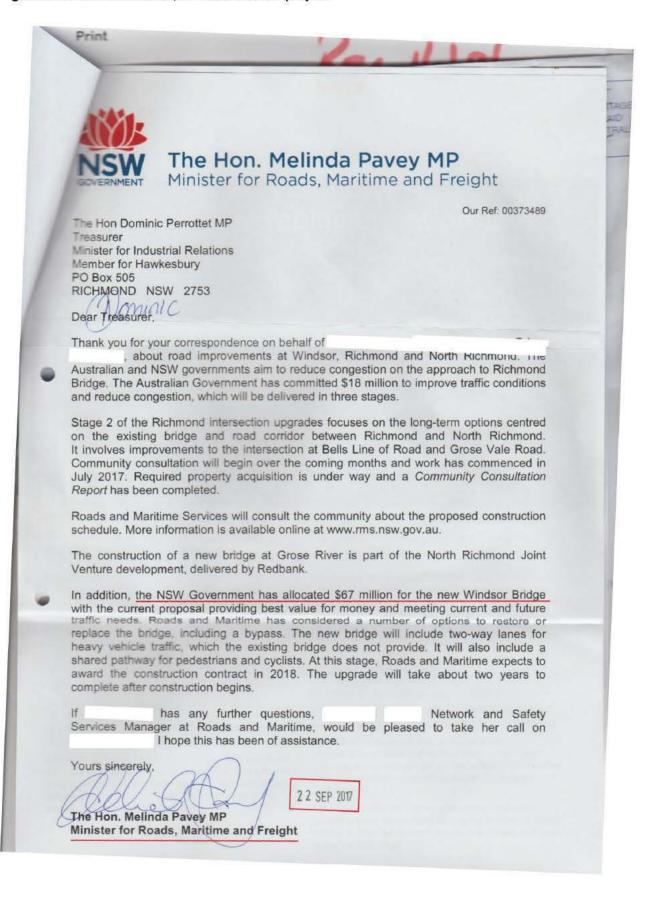
Dominic Perrottet MP Member for Hawkesbury

Treasurer

Minister for Industrial Relations

10/4/17

The Minister for Roads, Melinda Pavey, contradicted the Treasurer on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2017 when she stated that the government had allocated \$67 million for the project.



Then, on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2017, there was a further contradiction, from David Sweeney of Transport for NSW, who stated that the \$67 million is NOT allocated, and previous written advice stating that was an 'administrative error.



Our Ref: 00417692

Dear

Thank you for your further correspondence to the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight about the Windsor Bridge replacement project. I have been asked to respond to you.

I note your comments about Budget allocations for the replacement project. I am advised the \$67 million figure provided in the response dated 31 July 2017 is incorrect due to an administrative error. The full cost of the project has not yet been determined.

I am further advised the \$7 million 2017-18 NSW Budget allocation covers the project's estimated costs for that financial year. Works include salvaging archaeological artefacts before site works for the new bridge begin. This is expected to take up to 20 weeks.

In future Budgets, funds will be allocated towards the replacement project based on forecast expenditure during that financial period.

As per your comments about vehicle traffic, the new bridge will accommodate all vehicles, and provide one northbound and two southbound lanes. None of these lanes will be dedicated to heavy-vehicle traffic. The number of heavy vehicles using the new bridge is also not expected to increase.

Regarding noise levels, I understand Roads and Maritime will provide noise abatement measures for properties identified in the project's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), subject to each property owner's request.

To address your comments about air quality, Roads and Maritime has determined the project will not result in a reduction in air quality, as assessed in the EIS. You will be pleased to know, air quality and noise levels in the area are expected to improve, as traffic will be redirected further east, away from Thompson Square.

If you have any further questions, Senior Project Manager at Roads and Maritime, would be pleased to take your call on I hope this has been of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Terry McSweeney

Principal Manager, Ministerial & Government Services

Customer Relations & Government Services

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I have been attempting to get clarification on the estimated total cost of this project for approximately two years. The figure of \$65 million was bandied about by the RMS at one stage, however that was in around 2012-13. It would appear that close to \$30 million has already been spent and the pre-construction phase has not yet been reached. I have been unsuccessful in getting answers to my questions with regards the costs so far incurred and whether those costs will be included in the entire cost of the project.

As our community has been told there is not enough money to build a bypass, common courtesy would surely indicate that the very least we are entitled to is to be told what the projected final cost of the government's preferred option will be, and what the ceiling is on the project as a whole.

I am extremely worried at the way in which taxpayer money appears to be 'hollow logged' for this project. There is no transparency in terms of budget or costs. No business case or cost/benefit analysis has been released to the public. It is not good enough.

Richmond NSW 2753