

INQUIRY INTO WINDSOR BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Name: Mrs Margaret Johnson

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To The Committee assessing the merits of building a new bridge through Thompson Square. I am sure you have been told about the age & history of Thompson Square, that so much Colonial History & Aboriginal History is wrapped up in one rather small but significant area. Most of which, thankfully has been buried until recently because that has protected it, now one vital layer has been lifted & exposed Convict civilisation. The plan is that the Aboriginal Heritage will also be exposed and that will be another sacrifice of progress that the First Nation has to endure. The reason I am against the building of a new bridge that plans to destroy so much heritage in Thompson Square is rather a personal one. Our family has many convicts ancestors, over 20 of the convicts sent to Green Hills, as it was called then, are direct bloodline to my husband, children & grandchildren. Many of their descendants are still in the Hawkesbury today, we live just over the boundary & have lived, worked & volunteered in the Hawkesbury for over 40 years. So that rather humble bridge that is in question has carried many, many of our family across in safety since it was built and will continue to do so far into the future if maintained. Our children are now beginning their lives & homes in the Hawkesbury. So I believe we need a better future, a safer future with a by-pass built away from the town, so much traffic including a lot of very large trucks go through there now it's frightening. A by-pass is needed that is built to be above flood waters with roads leading to & from the by-pass that will also not flood. You will never save all the Hawkesbury from flooding but to have a main, safe evacuation road that will make the Hawkesbury grow has to be a priority. In light of the fact that the new airport will be built at Badgeries Creek much more truck movements will occur over the Hawkesbury River and a lot more houses will be built over the Hawkesbury River as land prices are still affordable. Just the adding of one more lane on a new bridge that causes so much destruction of heritage can't be measured. A by-pass now will see the Hawkesbury grow. Fewer trucks & traffic in Windsor will be safer, leaving the existing bridge for local use. I am deeply saddened that we are not as important as the other towns in NSW that have been provided with a by-pass & their needs are not as great as ours. Many years of calling for a by-pass have been ignored although many Government experts have recommended that it is what our development & safety requires. Thank you for the opportunity to address my concerns.