

**INQUIRY INTO WINDSOR BRIDGE REPLACEMENT
PROJECT**

Name: Ms Fiona Cochrane

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The Hawkesbury region was the birthplace of many of my decedents – many of whom are buried in grounds of the Frances Greenway designed church in Windsor. Joseph Craft came to Australia on board the Albermarle – as part of the Third Fleet in 1791. On absolute pardon, he moved to the Hawkesbury region where he established a farm and married Sarah Robinson.

Growing up in the Hills District, we often went to Windsor for family picnics, where we would sit by the river, or wander across the bridge. The area has fond memories, and has provided a connection to my past that cannot be dismissed. I now share this with my family, proud of my heritage and my connection to the square and surrounding region.

This is about to be stripped from me, and all that I have to show future generations where we came from. The NSW government is about to destroy the last public square given to the people by Macquarie himself, and can be dated back to 1811. Thompson square and many buildings surrounding it are earmarked for demolition. This is the same area where my forebears conducted business, where they worshipped, and where they also came to wander and enjoy the atmosphere that Windsor offers. This can never be replaced.

Included in the path of the destruction is the corner where Cunningham was hung. He led the first uprising of convicts which was pre-Eureka stockade in 1804. The area also has secret tunnels used to smuggle rum from the river that lead to the adjacent Macquarie Arms Hotel - and are dated around 1815. Many of these and the convict built drains have again been unearthed in recent excavations.

The NSW government is putting in a bypass which logically should be built 500 m downstream where there are vacant paddocks. There is absolutely no sense or logic behind the decision to proceed.

The cause has been taken up by the CAWB who are a group of concerned citizens who have volunteered 24 hours a day for over 4 years to try to halt this. But it looks like it will still go ahead as no-one is listening.

The bridge construction in the proposed location must be halted to avert this destruction of significant colonial heritage. We must protect our history, and enable public land to remain as the people's – and to be used by the people.