

**INQUIRY INTO WINDSOR BRIDGE REPLACEMENT  
PROJECT**

**Name:** Mrs Kay Wilson  
**Date received:** 30 December 2017

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I would like to express my views on the proposed new Windsor Bridge , Thompson Square, and the desecration of the archaeology that is taking place."My Husband and I bought our land in Glossodia in 1972 and moved here in 1974. We had come from the city and knew almost nothing about the Hawkesbury. This changed when we came here one day whilst building our temporary dwelling, as we approached the Hawkesbury River, there were crowds gathering, we were staying the night and the next day found we were not able to get to the bridge because of the roads flooded and the Windsor Bridge was underwater, the gathering of folks was apparently normal when news of a flood was announced.

As the years passed, we were to encounter many floods, when moving our furniture the road at Mc Graths Hill was flooded, but the bridge was open, in trepidation, I drove our car through that water, my Husband was in the Truck ahead of me and told me to keep in his wash, which I did for a bit and found myself drifting across the road, so had to make my own track, when cars reached the high land hear Macquarie Street, they were given a cheer from the people on McGraths Hill side, I often wondered if I got a cheer as well. Over the years together with our Children, we watched sail boats on the farm land at Freemans Reach, and Cattle being moved from the dairy in Freemans Reach Road, the Village and Butterfly farm on Putty Road would flood as did the butchers shop in King Road Wilberforce.

I mention these facts because we have been told the proposed Windsor Bridge will be flood free, if it was 100 metres high, it would make no difference , the roads leading to it in times of flood are impassable. I will add here for People not familiar with our towns the North Richmond Bridge also floods and the only way out of the area is to travel up Bells Line of Road and back through Katoomba, a long journey.

To ensure the long term success of this major investment by the State, perhaps a study on the projected accessibility of the new bridge for the residents of Wilberforce, Freeman's Reach and other communities to the north of the bridge based on historical flood levels should be undertaken. Any such study must also include in its terms of reference the forecasted impacts of climate change on the river through greater tidal influence (Windsor is tidal) and rain or other climatic events that may be of much greater significance and frequency than have been experienced in the past. Matters such as rain events also need to be considered for the entire river system along with the broader Warragamba Catchment rather than just the Hawkesbury area. Additionally, this should also consider the projected cost of additional flood mitigation measures required upstream of the Hawkesbury area or across the entire Catchment that may be required in the future to ensure 'Flood Free Access'.

Thompson Square, is a family park, an area where families come on the weekend to have picnics, during the week workers spend their lunch time there, it's a nice place for contemplation, or to sit for stress relief. The plans that have been computer enhanced for the public to view, will be rather difficult for people to traverse with the steep incline, people not to steady on their feet and children will be at risk and with a road at the bottom of the incline, the worst may happen, there will be no fencing near the road or the river.

The archaeology that is being bulldozed is criminal. Among other things, Brick barrel drains have been excavated by those bulldozers, these drains were commissioned by Governor Macquarie and are the oldest known examples of this type of infrastructure in Australia. In 2008 they were described by the RMS as rare. So much history, that could be a wonderful feature of our town, Windsor was the gateway to history, where explorers set out to cross the Blue Mountains and to venture to Bathurst, which I might add has preserved so much of its history, whilst our great place is methodically being demolished.

Our present Windsor Bridge, has been "falling down" since we moved here, but was such a marvel in engineering at the time it was built and still is, What I can't understand if it is in such bad condition, why wasn't it closed some 20 years ago, that is dereliction of care and duty, if that

was really the case.

The proposed new Windsor Bridge will be a concrete monstrosity, that will cause the buildings in Bridge Street and Thompson Square to have special glazing in their Windows, and full time air conditioning they will not be able to open their windows, because of the fumes and noise of the trucks that we have been told will increase dramatically when the new bridge is built. But the People who are being told will still be able to take their Families and small Children to Thompson Square will have no protection from the fumes and noise. The traffic problems will not be alleviated, one reason because there will still be two bottlenecks before the bridge, in the again computer enhanced video, the traffic is flowing really well, along Windsor Road to the bridge, but nothing has moved along Macquarie Street or George Street. A double roundabout on the Freemans Reach side, is a worry, with now two lanes on the North side of the bridge heading towards Windsor, where on the bridge does one change lanes to turn right into George or Macquarie or left in George Street, or straight ahead?

There are so many questions that are not answered in the RMS proposal or from the Parliamentarians, it is so secret, but when its done and dusted, there will be that "Its unfortunate but at the time" slogan and no one, and I repeat no one, who has put their name to this fiasco will be accountable.

It does make one wonder what is the real reason the bridge has to go.