

**INQUIRY INTO WINDSOR BRIDGE REPLACEMENT
PROJECT**

Name: Mr Jonathan Sheen

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Submission

I, among scores of other family members, am a 6th Generation descendant of the Hawkesbury River colonial settlers, having spent my childhood and adolescence visiting Windsor on a regular basis, with some family members having been born, bread and still residing there.

I am most passionately opposed to Option 1 (Windsor replacement bridge) for the following reasons.

1: Option 1 does nothing to alleviate the bottleneck on the approach roads to Thompson Square from either side of the river and there is nothing in terms of addressing the future needs of our area or the projected increase of truck movements. We gain a new set of traffic lights at Thompson Square which will stop traffic, where now it actually flows, albeit at a crawl during peak times.

Nothing about Option 1 has the potential to improve Thompson Square or surrounds.

2: Tourism which is a major draw-card to our area would most likely to be affected by this option due to its size/scale and visual impact.

Thompson Square is a much visited/photographed area and it will be completely bisected by this new road. The project is not in keeping with a Georgian Square dating back to the early 1800s. The OLDEST public Square in Australia.

Below is a statement from our prior Federal member Louise Marcus in relation to tourism and one would expect these figures to have increased.

"In 2010 the Hawkesbury had 646,000 day and 163,000 overnight visitors. These tourists injected an additional \$81 million dollars into every facet of the Hawkesbury economy." (Federal Member for Macquarie, Louise Marcus, 11 July 2012)

This project has the potential to negatively impact the tourist interest in this immediate area.

3: There is an enormous amount of information about this proposal that defies logic. The findings in regards to our loss of amenity, heritage, increased traffic/truck movements and the negative visual impacts on Thompson Square, cannot be denied.

Below are RMS statements prior to pre construction works beginning.

The state government's own traffic report in 2013 by independent consultants Cambray Pty Ltd recommended the current bridge be repaired and a bypass bridge be investigated.

"The RMS has stated that by 2026 Option 1 will be close to travel demand capacity, resulting in traffic queuing and traffic unpredictability. The RMS has also stated that the proposed route may impact on the commercial operations of the retail precinct on George Street."

In the plans the RMS stated the Windsor Bridge replacement project "is not a long-term solution to traffic congestion in Windsor".

These statements by the RMS makes difficult to understand how it has gotten this far when there are viable alternatives that will not impact Thompson Square.

Questions that need to be asked:

Why does the RMS and Liberal Government insist on this flawed and inappropriate plan?

Why wont the RMS build another crossing that will not impact Thompson Square, that has a long term solution for Hawkesbury residents, and leave the current bridge for local traffic?

If this project goes ahead it will be a sad reminder of the lack of vision and care toward our history and heritage by the current government.

I urge your government to reconsider this situation on the above grounds and instead of passing Option 1, to instead opt for the preservation of history, heritage and the properties and structures in the said immediate area.

Kind Regards, J. Sheen.