

## **INQUIRY INTO WINDSOR BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

**Organisation:** The National Trust (NSW) Far South Coast Branch  
**Date received:** 6 January 2018

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The Director,  
Portfolio Committee No. 5,  
Parliament House,  
Macquarie Street,  
Sydney NSW 2000.

Dear Director

**Re: Inquiry into the Windsor Bridge replacement project**

Please accept this correspondence as a submission to the Windsor Bridge Inquiry. In making this submission I wish to register my opposition and objections to the Government's proposal to build a bridge 35 m downstream from the existing, historic Windsor Bridge.

In particular I object to this project because, as acknowledged by Government experts, it will have catastrophic and irreversible impacts on the Heritage significance, tourism potential and public amenity of the oldest Town Square in Australia, originally planned by Governor Macquarie in 1811. This proposed project lacks appreciation of the historical significance of the town of Windsor and the economic destruction this project would cause by compromising its tourist potential.

It is disappointing that, despite expert and community opposition to this project, and clear evidence of the long term economic benefits of historic precincts like Windsor's for income and employment growth, the New South Wales Government has continued with a plan which would permanently force industrial vehicles through historic residential, recreational and retail urban precincts. The main new approach road to the proposed new bridge would run along one side of the historic town square, permanently introducing heavy traffic to the square and hence destroying its ambience and character.

As a resident of Bermagui on the Far South Coast of NSW, I have seen several examples over past decades of huge tourism income and employment benefits accruing to well preserved and enhanced historic villages, like nearby Cobargo and Tilba. On the other hand, formerly beautiful historic towns like Eden have been heavily compromised by wanton destruction of their built heritage. Such towns as Katoomba in the Blue Mountains have suffered a similar fate, with unfortunate consequences for the local economy, compared to well preserved villages like Leura. Countries like France, the world's largest tourist destination, would never countenance such short-sighted destruction of their built heritage and tourism assets.

Given the project's obvious shortcomings, I would urge you to recommend it be stopped. Instead the historic Windsor Bridge should be renovated and a new bridge constructed on a Windsor bypass.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Frances Perkins  
Chairperson Far South Coast Branch of the National Trust (NSW)