

**Submission  
No 72**

**INQUIRY INTO WINDSOR BRIDGE REPLACEMENT  
PROJECT**

**Name:** Mr Paul Evans  
**Date received:** 16 January 2018

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## **SUBMISSION**

To:

Portfolio Committee No.5 – Industry And Transport  
**Inquiry into the Windsor Bridge replacement project**

Submitted by: *Paul Evans,*  
*12th January 2018*

## **BACKGROUND**

This brief is a submission to the Inquiry into the Windsor Bridge Replacement Project. In making this submission I wish to register my opposition and objections to the NSW Government's proposal to build a bridge 35 m downstream of the existing, historic Windsor Bridge.

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE/ISSUES**

- The NSW Government has failed to adequately consult with the community on this Project. Premiers, Ministers, Local State Members, and Public Servants have ignored requests from community groups to discuss issues. The 4 year long protest by CAWB (Community Action for Windsor Bridge) clearly demonstrates the concern the community has about the conduct of this project. *(TR i)*
- There has been a 100% increase in heavy vehicles through Thompson Square since 2012, with up to 3,000 heavy vehicles travelling through the Square each day. There is concern about the role of heavy vehicles in road accidents yet the State Government is insisting on putting a major road through essentially what is a residential area. Many other towns in NSW are being by-passed because of traffic issues but not Windsor. *(TR ii)*
- The RMS is currently destroying the archaeology of the third oldest settlement in Australia. This destruction is being justified by describing it as "salvage". Salvage requires the removal of the archaeology. Once removed it can never be replaced. It has been destroyed. (Independent Heritage Report, Mary Casey). *(TR iii)*
- This project is not delivering an acceptable level of flood mitigation. The current Windsor Bridge goes under in a 1:2 flood. The proposed new bridge height is less than a 1:3 flood (EIS documents). There have been no changes to the height of surrounding roads, which go under during floods. *(TR iv)*
- The RMS has ignored advice and reports from its own consultants that document the issues with the project including the adverse effect on heritage, traffic issues, and minimal flood mitigation benefits. *(TR v)*
- The Government has already spent \$27 million on this project. The community has nothing to show for it other than some badly written planning documents and a large hole having been dug by excavators in a sensitive heritage area. *(TR vii)*

## **CONCLUSION**

I am a direct descendant of some of the first Europeans to settle in the Hawkesbury. I acknowledge the precious and irreplaceable heritage of this place for all Australians. This unique area is under threat from the State Government's Windsor Bridge Replacement Project which is unnecessary, ill conceived, and will provide no tangible benefits for the community. I have completed twice weekly shifts at the CAWB tent high commission for 4 years. I have spoken to hundreds of people about this project. I have encountered only a few who thought it was a good idea. People feel that a by-pass would be a much better option. It is not too late to save Windsor Bridge and Thompson Square.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

I would like to recommended the following actions occur immediately:

1. The Windsor Bridge Replacement Project be stopped,
2. Archaeological "salvage" work currently being completed in Thompson Square cease,
3. Redirect funds allocated to the Project to begin planning for a Windsor bypass.

*Paul Evans 12/1/18*