

**INQUIRY INTO WINDSOR BRIDGE REPLACEMENT  
PROJECT**

**Name:** Mrs Lesley Hayes

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## Submission for Windsor Bridge

The Government claims that there has been “consultation” with the Community about the Windsor Bridge Project, but this is simply not true if you consider consultation to be a two way process. The Community has been misled about the project from the very beginning when we were told that the old Windsor bridge had reached the end of its useful life; a new bridge would be a traffic solution; the project would enhance heritage; it would also be a flood mitigation solution. All of these claims have been discredited by the Government’s own Consultants and proven to be misleading and yet the Government continues to frighten the general public with these statements. The public was never offered the alternative of a credible bypass bridge.

There is a lack of transparency and honesty from the RMS and the Government.

To give an example On 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2017 I contacted the office of my local member, Mr Dominic Perrottet, to raise my concerns about the proposed bridge project and spoke to a staff member who informed me that even with repairs, the existing Windsor bridge would only last another 10 years. I was told that a report existed that outlined why this was true so I asked if I could see the report where this determination was made. I was told that a copy would be sent to me but despite continued requests I am yet to receive this report, although they did send me an RMS summary which states among other things that it is estimated that repair work to the existing bridge would only extend its life by 10 years (*see attachment 1*), but there was nothing to back up this statement. This is despite the existence of a NSW Government commissioned report from Peter Stewart Consulting which clearly indicates that there are many years of useful life left in the bridge.

It is very difficult to contact the RMS on this project. I tried several times over many days to contact the number given on an information sheet from the RMS, which they distributed to homes close to the project in November 2107 when “salvage” work began. The contact number just dropped out immediately every time I rang it, so I decided to try the phone number given on the information sheet for “Translating and interpreting Service”. This number was answered by a woman from CMC Construction who was working on a project in Wyong and she had no idea why her mobile number would be given out on an RMS handout.

The only alternative was to contact the RMS by email, which I did on 5 December 2017 to ask for the report on the suggested 10 year life of the existing bridge, but they have not even acknowledged that such a report exists. This is despite the fact that they are still telling people that the bridge has only 10 years life left (*see attachment 2*).

The Government acknowledges that a bypass bridge will need to be built in the future. If common sense could prevail we could save the money it will cost to knock down an existing bridge, which is perfectly sound as it has no load limit on it, and put that money towards the bypass for Windsor.

Regards,  
Lesley Hayes

9 January 2017