

INQUIRY INTO WINDSOR BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Name: Ms Jude Holdsworth

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I am writing this submission to address the deteriorating situation in Thompson's Square in Windsor NSW.

I, like many others, am an extremely disappointed member of the Hawkesbury community. The proposal to build a new three lane bridge over the Hawkesbury River at Windsor is a backward and flawed plan that reflects a serious neglect of historical knowledge and human significance both Indigenous and European.

The fact that this downhill, concrete, 3 lane bridge will neither relieve traffic problems nor help in flood times also makes it an immoral waste of money. A bypass is the only logical answer.

It is well known that the RMS has had a mandate to replace all the old bridges in NSW with new concrete ones and that this plan goes back a couple of decades. However, since then, important new information about the unique foundations of Windsor and the incredible number of Aboriginal artefacts found nearby have come to light. This has been completely ignored or snowed under by our state government, our local member of parliament and the RMS. It looks like corruption!

One block south of the site of the current destruction at Thompson's Square is the location of the Hawkesbury Regional Museum completed in 2008. When the foundations for that building were dug engineers and excavators found the layer of Aeolian Sand which contained 12,000 Aboriginal Artefacts just on that one site! Archaeologists were consulted and continue to review this incredible collection but I saw the dozens of jars of stone tools and arrow tips and blades as I was an employee of the Museum. When they were found, all work stopped on the site for over a year while these incredible items were carefully unearthed and preserved in airtight jars.

No road or bridge is more important than these fascinating remnants of some of the earliest history found in this country, dating back to between 10 and 30 thousand years. Many people in Windsor, the Hawkesbury, Sydney and all over Australia would love to study these things, complete PhD's, write books, attract students and historians, descendants of our first peoples and our first European Settlers and tourists to this area for all time.

This beautiful Georgian town with the oldest town Square dedicated to a reformed and entrepreneurial local hero Andrew Thompson, should be revered and respected by the whole nation. There is precious little of any early history left in Sydney or Parramatta, the first two settlements. All the more reason to protect and preserve Windsor, our third settlement in this colony and its beautiful strong old bridge for future generations to see and love the way we who live here now love this place.

URGENT