

INQUIRY INTO WINDSOR BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Name: Mr Martin Bishop

Date received: 17 January 2018

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

17th January, 2018

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 new bridge alongside the existing, historic Windsor Bridge.

Currently around 3,000 large trucks cross the Windsor Bridge every day, and that number is increasing (CAWB 2017 traffic survey) – many of these trucks are huge (heavy and long), and struggle to negotiate the junctions at Thompson Square. One reason given for rushing the current destruction of the area beside Thompson Square is that the current bridge is unsafe – and yet there is no load limit set to restrict those trucks. Those trucks should be diverted across a Bypass Bridge, and away from the historic buildings in the Square.

In particular I object to this project because it will not improve current traffic conditions, and will do nothing to remove the potential impacts of flooding (confirmed in the Project EIS). Instead, the project will have catastrophic and irreversible impacts on the Heritage significance and public amenity of the oldest Town Square in Australia.

There have been in excess of forty thousand signatures on a petition against this project, and many documented statements from experts opposing it – and yet the NSW Government has continued with a plan which will permanently force large industrial vehicles through residential, recreational and retail urban space.

I have been a local resident for over 16 years – I visit the town of Windsor regularly for a number of reasons, and have learnt a lot about the town's heritage. Traffic volumes have increased significantly over the last couple of years, especially the large trucks. I have read many of the project documents and provided feedback regarding the project. I have been frustrated and annoyed by the lack of any meaningful response to the easily identifiable problems with the proposed Windsor Bridge replacement project. The local MP has been completely absent, and shown no understanding of the concerns of the residents.

I believe that this project fails on many levels – lack of liaison with local residents and understanding their concerns; the poor performance of the RMS and the current excavation team (a huge amount of heritage items have been destroyed); ineffective strategic planning by the department, and project expenditure.

From the Cambray Consulting Report (page 67) - "If the current bridge was to be retained for local traffic, this could offer a good result all-round. The new bridge could take B-doubles and heavy vehicles away from town, allowing a load limit to be imposed on the existing bridge to possibly extend its life, minimise the effects of heavy vehicles on the town, and retain local connectivity."

I would ask that the historic Windsor Bridge be renovated for local traffic, and a Windsor Bypass be constructed – the current works should be stopped immediately before further irreparable damage is done.

Yours sincerely,
Martin Bishop
Kellyville, NSW 2155

Destruction at Windsor Bridge – January 2018



Trucks at Windsor Bridge – January 2018





