

**INQUIRY INTO WINDSOR BRIDGE REPLACEMENT
PROJECT**

Name: Mrs Marcella Pyke

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As a resident of the Hawkesbury, an erstwhile archaeologist and a history teacher, I write to express my great dismay at the current and prospective damage being wrought to Australia's oldest-surviving town square; located in Windsor NSW, in the name of your government. The decision to replace the existing bridge, on reasons even Government's own advisers and consultants have found spurious and unwarranted, must be revised. The destruction of our heritage must stop.

In Windsor it is not just European Australian heritage that is being destroyed, but also important Indigenous prehistorical and historical archaeological material. This is of world heritage value. Our LNP politicians; those who are pushing for this project, have never even visited the site themselves, and have avoided talking to concerned locals and others who have been protesting this project for years.

Now that there is a parliamentary inquiry into the development, surely 'work' and so-called 'archaeological survey and salvage' should cease until its findings. The secrecy surrounding the site is doubly concerning as 1) the public cannot see that due archaeological processes are in hand and 1) archaeology is not usually carried out by heavy machinery.

I feel, as do many of my fellow-Hawkesburians, that your inquiry is our only hope. Many of us feel that the reason behind such an adamant refusal to even consider the alternative plans to deal with the issues the Government says destroying the bridge and the Square will solve, must have a money trail behind it. It seems even more unfair that developers etc should make a great deal of money carrying out this work, when the tourist potential of leaving the Square untouched carries an economic benefit for us here in an area of high unemployment.

The alternate plan of a bypass has been assessed and compared with that of the Government and has been found much better, even by the Government's own consultants.

Destruction of our Square and its history will ensure that this Government and its members will be associated with heritage vandalism in years to come.

Many thanks for your consideration,
Marcella Pyke.