

**Submission
No 93**

INQUIRY INTO WINDSOR BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

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The current proposal is an opportunity missed to provide infrastructure that will address the future needs of the the growing Western Sydney development. By only proposing a short term solution to the growing traffic needs of through traffic to the North and West of New South Wales this proposal restricts the opportunity to service the growing area to the West of the Hawkesbury River and alternative road transport routes to the North and West of New South Wales.

In addition the proposed bridge will not alleviate traffic problems that will be caused by major floods in the Hawkesbury River as the farmlands and roads North of the proposed bridge will be covered by water in a major flood.

By bypassing Windsor and routing a new river crossing to elevations that will be flood free, this would be building infrastructure catering for the of the expanding population of New South Wales in particular and Australia in general.

The current proposal will effectively split the historical, commercial and recreational areas of Windsor, prolonging a situation that discourages tourism, for example people staying at the two motels in Windsor now have to cross the busy road to access restaurants and shopping facilities. With the accompanying upgrade of the access road and increasing traffic, particularly trucks, this will further isolate the existing historical and recreational facilities from the town endangering people crossing the roads at George Street and Macquarie Streets. The Windsor area provides a recreation opportunity for the growing populations of Western Sydney which are increasingly being housing in smaller units and houses which allow little opportunity for recreation.

I submit that the proposed bridge be built further North to allow the bridge to be constructed flood free on higher ground on the Eastern and Western sides of the Hawkesbury River. This bridge would then link up with the new housing developments and the proposed North /South roads being proposed to service these developments, for example Boundary Road at Vineyard.

The existing bridge should be retained to facilitate pedestrian, cycle and small vehicle access to the growing recreational facilities and provide for future expansion of facilities. The destruction of the existing bridge would effectively restrict access to recreation areas from Windsor Township. Windsor's future prosperity relies upon development of the tourist trade and as I have stated above this will be restricted by the current proposal to build a low level river crossing and the destruction of the existing bridge. Apparently the argument put forward to justify the destruction of the bridge is that it is unsafe? if this is true why are B Special trucks using it now?