

**Submission  
No 101**

**INQUIRY INTO WINDSOR BRIDGE REPLACEMENT  
PROJECT**

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### "A Bridge too far"

The current RMS Option I proposal to replace Windsor Bridge with another 2 or 3 lane Bridge is a White Elephant in the making, as it does not produce any real outcome/s, the only singular outcome of any consequence, being the swapping of the current bridge for another one, with not significantly greater capacity.

The cost-benefit ratio is very poor. Option I will greatly damage the integrity of Thompson Square, Australia's oldest remaining Town Square, dating back to the 1800's. And what a lovely Town Square it is. I grew up in Europe, where people would not contemplate what is being contemplated here and yet they have thousands of such Squares. We have but one and what are we planning....?!

Option I encompasses the installation of Traffic Lights to replace the existing roundabout. Has it occurred to any of the engineers involved, that this increases noise levels significantly, as it causes vehicles having to accelerate from standstill. One knows how much noise large trucks make, when they slowly accelerate through the gears. Locals and Tourists alike in Thompson Square will be subjected to this increased noise. With roundabouts, vehicles tend to coast through, so noise is reduced.

A concrete bridge or it's concrete approaches next to a historic town square, DO NOT MIX.

Option I will not solve the Hawkesbury's Traffic problems. You don't have to be a town planner to realize that the territory on the other side of the bridge, is vast. As Sydney is slowly being strangled by higher and higher density development, regrettably more and more people are being pushed into areas northwest of Windsor Bridge, an area, the size of which, could hold 100,000 new residents.

For heaven's sake, it is NOT the bridge that is the problem. It is the corridors leading up to the Bridge that are causing the congestion. But these corridors are lined with historic buildings that cannot be touched.

So what's the solution then? You guessed it: a BYPASS. Windsor, like many country Towns needs a Bypass. Sure, it will cost considerably more, but sooner or later we will HAVE to have it. Even the RMS admits to this. But with a bypass, Windsor Bridge will revert to local traffic and won't need replacing, just some repairs, which will render it good enough for another 30-50 years.

The funds allocated for replacing the bridge should be put aside towards a Bypass. It is feared that if Option I goes ahead and some 60 million are expended now, it will push a Bypass much further into the future, as there will be no political will to find another 150 million for such a project. Viewed from this angle, it is shameful what is being proposed here.

In the meantime, two factors: population growth and increasing traffic volumes will clash with the harsh reality that there cannot be any reprieve for our suffering residents, as: *"sorry - we've just spent 60 million building a new bridge for you. What - you now want a bypass as well...?!"* The folly of this is almost Pythonesque .. I ask you, please come to your senses..

Yours sincerely  
Frank Klamka