INQUIRY INTO WINDSOR BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Name:

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

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Inquiry into Windsor Bridge Replacement Project

Submitted by Bryan and Margaret Smith

Dear Director

We live west of the Hawkesbury River in North Richmond which is an outer suburb of Sydney not in rural NSW.

This is the area most affected by a development of 1400 new homes without any infrastructure.

Prior to the approval of this development it was known to the RMS that the North Richmond Bridge was at capacity and closed in times of flood. There are no emergency services based on this side of the River.

Using a substantial detour, we can use the equally congested and flood prone Windsor Bridge.

It would be expected that a new bridge at Windsor would be designed to overcome traffic delays and be flood proof. Unfortunately this is not so. Traffic is still constrained to one lane in each direction on the bridge and at traffic lights and the approach roads are underwater in a flood.

We note that communities similar to Windsor and Richmond have all been provided with a bypass. Clearly this could facilitate free flowing, flood free ,traffic flow and should be pursued here.

To provide flood free local traffic movements there is a need to provide a high level river crossing at North Richmond. Currently this is scheduled for 2036 but is desperately needed now.

Clearly there must be some reason driving the need for a single span bridge replacing a serviceable, historic, structure despite offering negligible benefit to the community and destroying Australia's oldest public square.

Whatever the reason it needs to be revealed and carefully assessed by your enquiry.

Bryan and Margaret Smith