

**INQUIRY INTO WINDSOR BRIDGE REPLACEMENT
PROJECT**

Name: Ms Catherine Robson

Date received: 23 January 2018

To the inquiry into Windsor Bridge,

There are many reasons why the proposed new road through Thompson Square Windsor is an absolute travesty.

Firstly and most importantly, the history! Thompson Square is the oldest Georgian Square in existence in Australia. The houses bordering the square are of huge historical value. The home of Breaker Moran, The Doctor's House and The Macquarie Arms (oldest pub in Australia) These and other significant buildings have remained the same since settlement. We are proud of this area and how it symbolises the success of the nation. Without the fertile farmland of Windsor the First settlers would not have survived and Australia as a colony would have continued to grow. Thompson Square is the heart of the Hawkesbury and should be immediately protected for future generations.

As a school teacher I have taken many primary school groups to the square to learn about our history. These trips have been invaluable for their learning experiences and I can't imagine how we will teach future generations about our past without areas like Thompson Square. Windsor without Thompson Square would be like Sydney without the rocks.

Secondly, the proposed roadworks are seriously flawed, A three lane bridge will do nothing to alleviate the traffic nightmare that is Windsor. Over 2,500 B double trucks pass through this quaint little roundabout every day. They have no desire to be stuck in the daily bottleneck that is caused by traffic. I believe both trucks and local traffic would benefit from a bypass. This is the only real solution. The trucks have no reason to be congesting our roads as they just need to access the Putty Road. A bypass will be needed in the future and I fail to understand how wasting taxpayers money on an already redundant new bridge.

With 45,000 signatures demanding a bypass and the protection of Thompson Square It is shameful that we are not being considered for a sensible option. Macksville, Kiama etc have all benefited from the success of bypasses.

Having lived in the Hawkesbury area for over 50 years I believe it is sheer vandalism by our government to alter in any way the existing bridge and this historic Square.

Many environment experts who have examined the site agree that this new plan will just not work. I am particularly concerned with the new set of lights proposed for George and Bridge Streets. These will be approximately 2 metres from the Macquarie St traffic lights. I fail to see how traffic can possibly 'flow' if one huge truck will fill the gap between the 2 sets of lights. A B-double on a hill will be the only vehicle able to get through at each light change!

Please consider this submission, check the facts and leave our beautiful historic town alone. The loss of the culture and identity of Windsor is not something we will look back on with pride.

Yours sincerely
Catherine Joy Robson