

**Submission
No 113**

**INQUIRY INTO WINDSOR BRIDGE REPLACEMENT
PROJECT**

Name: Mr Tim Bidder
Date received: 23 January 2018

The Director

Portfolio Committee No 5

Parliament House

Macquarie St

Sydney NSW 2000

Date 22nd January 2018.

Dear Director,

Re: Inquiry into the Windsor Bridge replacement project.

Please accept this submission as an objection of the Windsor Bridge replacement project.

Thompson square Windsor is the oldest public amenity and as such has major heritage and historical significance to Australia and is of national importance together with the recent discovery of the extremely rare huge convict brick built barrel extensive drainage system of the Governor Macquarie period of 1814. It is believed that in places you can walk upright in it and has convict world heritage values along with the aboriginal heritage the area has.

This could be a major international tourist draw card with our early colonial heritage along with the old historic Windsor Bridge of 1874. Sadly it will soon be demolished and the rare convict drainage works will be recorded by the archaeology team and then broken up. It is very strange that the State Government of NSW is still pushing ahead with this project even after the recent discovery of the extremely rare convict built barrel drains.

I am also very concerned that while this Upper House inquiry is in process, they are still pursuing the archaeology dig and continuing with their plans on the project. Sadly the Government is showing total disregard for the Parliamentary democratic process. Maybe it's the plan of the State Government to push ahead regardless of the inquiry so that the historic drainage system is all broken up and taken away before it becomes an election issue.

The local community have been camping out in the square for almost five years 24/7 trying to protect their culture and heritage. Governments State and Federal are not listening despite the tens of thousands signatures, testifying against this project, by experts in various fields and the community at large seeking a bypass option. It has been identified that this project would not solve the traffic problems, in fact will make them worse forcing industrial vehicles through residential, recreational and retail urban area. Please, do what you can to stop this project by any Parliamentary and legal means possible at the State and Federal levels.

The Federal Government needs to intervene here and now and protect our culture and heritage for all Australians and the world to enjoy. The Federal Government may hope this will not be an

election issue. It is now becoming a major news item. The Liberal party of NSW under the Premiership of Gladys Berejiklian is very controversial in areas like this one and could do great harm to the Liberal party. The Federal Government needs to be convinced and put pressure on the NSW Government to realize the major importance of this recent discovery and assist with other options.

Yours sincerely

Timothy Bidder