

**INQUIRY INTO WINDSOR BRIDGE REPLACEMENT
PROJECT**

Name: Ms Elizabeth Shallow

Date received: 24 January 2018

The Director
Port Folio Committee No.5
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Director

Re: Inquiry into the Windsor Bridge Replacement Project

Please accept this communication as my submission to the Windsor Bridge Inquiry

Windsor clearly has traffic issues to be addressed, but these issues will barely be addressed by the Windsor Bridge Replacement Project, and the project's EIS statement shows little impact on flood mitigation for the area. I submit that the Windsor Bridge replacement Project which is currently in implementation at Windsor should cease immediately.

I have read documents pertinent to the project and attended relevant information sessions although I am not a Windsor resident, but I have strong ancestral links to the Hawkesbury district, the town of Windsor itself and the Thompson Square and Windsor Bridge precinct. I am a western Sydney resident of some 30 years and am a frequent visitor to the Hawkesbury district.

In RMS documents and reports there are consistent statements not without some ambiguity that any development will remain cognisant of the colonial and heritage value of the area and that it will be treated gently and with respect, without damaging the physical status of the square, and with no intrusion on the historical milieu of the Windsor Bridge precinct.

These statements and comments are in direct conflict with various well researched and referenced reports that clearly illustrate the imposition of a large modern roadway at the Thompson Square crossing will have not only detrimental visual impact on the square but in fact will have damaging physical effects on not only the square itself due to excavation and land moulding, but also on some surrounding historically significant buildings. It will also necessitate the removal of mature trees from the area. I feel a strong sense of despair at the damage that is currently being caused to possibly the oldest intact relics of colonial government and construction in NSW, and which provides evidence of Australian growth and development since colonisation.

In fact as of the date of this submission the RMS excavation has itself already uncovered priceless convict constructed Brick Drains which can probably be dated from 1814, predating the colonial brick constructed culvert at Sydney's Royal Botanic Gardens from around 1816, and the Port Arthur site in Tasmania which was not constructed until about 1833.

The intrinsic historical value of the Windsor Bridge and Thompson Square is inestimable. We love and respect the Royal Botanic Gardens, the site of the first colonial farm in NSW and its convict brick constructed culvert. We protect and preserve the colonial Port Arthur structures for their historic and human significance. It is right and proper that the Thompson Square precinct and the current Windsor Bridge, the oldest bridge crossing the Hawkesbury River, be afforded the same honour and respect, none of which can be achieved with their removal. In fact preservation of these unique features of the Hawkesbury if preserved and managed with the same dedication would be a valuable historical asset for future tourism and education purposes, as are Sydney's Botanic Gardens and the Port Arthur structures.

There is no greater experience than to view old history, not in books but in the place it was made. This is what we are losing with the current development under Option 1 of the RMS plan for road and bridge development across the Hawkesbury River at Bridge Street, Windsor. This will be lost in the process of building a new bridge which from evidence does not address future needs and barely addresses current traffic and flood mitigation demands in the area.

I am one of many to claim historical links to the depth of history at Windsor and I beg your forgiveness as I indulge myself with illustrating some of the depth of this history for you. Some of my ancestral links to Windsor relate to my late husband's third Great Grandfathers, the Reverend Samuel Marsden, Principal Chaplin of the NSW colony and the "flogging parson of Parramatta" who consecrated St Mathews Anglican Church at Windsor in 1822, and Magistrate John Brabyn who was a former NSW Corp Captain who rode in response to the Vinegar Hill uprising of 1804 and who was appointed to the Magistracy by Governor Lachlan Macquarie in 1818. Although buried at Parramatta, the Reverend Marsden died at Windsor, John Brabyn however died and is buried at Windsor.

In Conclusion

I would like to see the Windsor Bridge Replacement Project stopped immediately, the historic Windsor Bridge renovated and a new bridge constructed on a Windsor bypass in line with the recommendation of the Cambray Consulting report prepared for the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure, 15 August 2013 (page 24).

I am opposed to the current construction on the basis that

- it has been shown to be a costly expenditure that will not meet future traffic and environmental needs,
- it has destructive impact on a valuable historical precinct, and
- The RMS planning and consultation process is grossly deficit in addressing the issues raised not only by local and interested parties, but by experts in the fields of archaeology, engineering and history and despite voluminous oral and written protest.

I thank you for your consideration of my submission.

Yours Sincerely

Elizabeth Shadlow

23rd January 2018.