

INQUIRY INTO WINDSOR BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 24 January 2018

Partially
Confidential

24 January 2018

The RMS has clearly stated "Windsor Bridge is the oldest existing structure still in use for crossing the Hawkesbury River and is considered to be a rare item listed on the Sec 170 NSW State Agency register relating to its initial construction, subsequent modifications and survival."

The proposed new bridge will not deliver any relief from traffic congestion as it was originally a two lane bridge replacing a two lane bridge. This has now been modified to have two lanes heading southbound and one lane travelling northbound

There are alternatives which should be investigated. Retain the existing bridge and provide an alternative crossing of the Hawkesbury River with a By-Pass, this will provide flood free access as well as an effective solution to the traffic situation and deliver the solution we all need.

Experts agree the bridge can be refurbished at a cost such that it can function for the next 50 years with little ongoing maintenance so with relatively modest expenditure (approx. 14.5 m) the bridge can be serviceable which will give time to identify an alternate route.

The Heritage Council is opposed to the project for the "irrevocable damage" it will do to Windsor and Thompson Square and supports its preference for a bypass option and that the project should be refused on heritage grounds.

The National Trust also opposes the demolition of the State significant Windsor Bridge and encourages its conservation for light vehicle/pedestrian traffic only and that a new bridge and road infrastructure be constructed as a bypass to Windsor township to satisfy long term traffic movement and improve flood free access across the river.

The RMS is on record saying "little improvement could be made upon the total vehicle time and speed for each option as compared to the existing conditions and the replacement of the bridge alone is unlikely to improve capacity as outlined in Option 1.

Therefore the Government should delay the proposed replacement of the Windsor Bridge and undertake a broader study to investigate long term solutions and once a preferred long term solution is identified, consider a staged approach to progressively deliver that long term solution. This would avoid investing substantial funds into a traffic route which will have a limited life due to constrained intersection capacity on the roads feeding the bridge.

Yours faithfully