

**Submission
No 137**

INQUIRY INTO WINDSOR BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Name: Name suppressed
Date received: 24 January 2018

Partially
Confidential

Portfolio Committee No. 5,
Parliament House,
Macquarie Street,
Sydney NSW 2000.

Dear Director,

Re: Inquiry into the Windsor Bridge replacement project

Please accept this correspondence as a submission to the Windsor Bridge Inquiry. In making this submission I wish to register my opposition and objections to the Government's proposal to build a bridge 35 m downstream of the existing, historic Windsor Bridge.

In particular I object to this project because it represents poor value for money, in that it does little or nothing, (as confirmed in the Project EIS), to mitigate flood impacts and will have no more than a marginal impact on existing, chaotic traffic conditions. "RMS does state however that 'an alternative route around Windsor may be considered in the future depending on growth in traffic numbers and local congestion.' In our opinion, such a route should be considered as part of this project." Cambray Consulting, Windsor Bridge Replacement Project, Traffic Review of Information Provided by the Applicant (Roads and Maritime Services), Prepared for NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure, 15 August 2013 - pg.24

The current Windsor bridge is safe "...the bridge is safe for current use." Report on Structural Condition of the existing Windsor Bridge, pg.11

"Given that the bridge is considered an item of state significance within the EIS, give further consideration to options for the proposed route that retain the bridge to provide either a primary or secondary use." Windsor Bridge Replacement Project Independent Heritage Review August 2013, pg.38

It would be well suited to pedestrian traffic allowing a safe and easy access from Windsor side of the river to the historic Governor Phillip Park if a bypass was in place.

Furthermore, as acknowledged by Government experts, the project will have catastrophic and irreversible impacts on the Heritage significance, tourism potential and public amenity of the oldest Town Square in Australia. It is disappointing to note that, despite tens of thousands signatures testifying to both expert and community opposition to this project, the New South Wales Government has continued with a plan which will permanently force industrial vehicles through residential, recreational and retail urban space.

As a resident of the Hawkesbury who has attended RMS information sessions, read project documents and provided feedback regarding the project I have been frustrated and angered by the refusal to respond in any meaningful way to the numerous and easily identifiable problems with the proposed Windsor Bridge replacement project.

In conclusion, this is a project that fails to deliver a quality outcome; whether assessed in terms of project expenditure, the performance of the RMS, or the effectiveness of the department's strategic planning. Given the project's obvious shortcomings, I would like to see the project stopped, the historic Windsor Bridge renovated and a new bridge constructed on a Windsor bypass.