

INQUIRY INTO WINDSOR BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 25 January 2018

Partially
Confidential

I submit that the Windsor Bridge replacement project proposed by the NSW State Government and RMS is without merit and unacceptable. As a regular visitor to the area I am absolutely dismayed and disgusted at what is proposed.

1. The replacement bridge would be inadequate both for present and anticipated needs of road traffic through Windsor, across the Hawkesbury River and the surrounding road network
2. The destruction of the current bridge would violate the intent of NSW environmental law to protect and preserve historical transport infrastructure.
3. The construction of the southern approach to the proposed new bridge would destroy high value archaeological remains, both colonial and indigenous, and seriously compromise other heritage associated with Thompson'Square, which includes some of the earliest buildings and structures of the colonial era.
4. The proposed bridge does not meet the 1 in 5 flood immunity level required as a condition of project approval.
5. The level of community opposition and the availability of alternative routes indicates that the impact of the project on the broad community has not been adequately assessed.
6. The proposed bridge design is contrary to the RMS' own guidelines and does not meet the objective of minimising visual impact.
7. The detrimental effect of this project on the development of heritage tourism in the Hawkesbury has been ignored. The value of tourism to the region and its potential growth into the future has been identified as a source of employment and economic growth which will be placed at great risk.
8. The economic analysis provided for this project is incomplete and does not allow a comparison with the other options. The variations between the early analysis and that reported in the EIS raises serious concerns about the completeness, accuracy and reliability of the reported figures.
9. Forcing a heavy vehicle route through the middle of public open space is contrary to sensible design principles. Heavy vehicle and through traffic should be diverted via a bypass route to enable the continued enjoyment of the open space for public use.

All of the issues mentioned above have been amply researched and investigated by concerned experts with high standing in their various fields. Their negative findings in relation to the bridge destruction plan are virtually unanimous.

The selection of Option 1 by the RMS directly contradicts findings and recommendations of its own departmental officers. The project should be halted immediately.