

**Submission
No 159**

**INQUIRY INTO WINDSOR BRIDGE REPLACEMENT
PROJECT**

Name: Mrs Shirley Evans

Date received: 25 January 2018

The Director,
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.

The NSW Government has failed to adequately consult with the community on this Project. Premiers, Ministers, Local State Members, and Public Servants have ignored requests from community groups to discuss issues. The 4 year long protest by CAWB (Community Action for Windsor Bridge) clearly demonstrates the concern the community has about the conduct of this project. (TR i)

There has been a 100% increase in heavy vehicles through Thompson Square since 2012, with up to 3,000 heavy vehicles travelling through the Square each day. There is concern about the role of heavy vehicles in road accidents yet the State Government is insisting on putting a major road through essentially what is a residential area. Many other towns in NSW are being by-passed because of traffic issues but not Windsor. This unwelcome invasion of heavy traffic is polluting the historic colonial town with noise and fumes. (TR ii)

The RMS is currently destroying the archaeology of the third oldest settlement in Australia. This destruction is being justified by describing it as "salvage". Salvage requires the removal of the archaeology. Once removed it can never be replaced. It has been destroyed. (Independent Heritage Report, Mary Casey). (TR iii)

This project is not delivering an acceptable level of flood mitigation. The current Windsor Bridge goes under in a 1:2 flood. The proposed new bridge height is less than a 1:3 flood (EIS documents). There have been no changes to the height of surrounding roads, which go under during floods. (TR iv)

The RMS has ignored advice and reports from its own consultants that document the issues with the project including the adverse effect on heritage, traffic issues, and minimal flood mitigation benefits. (TR v)

The Government has already spent \$27 million on this project. The community has nothing to show for it other than some badly written planning documents and a large hole having been dug by excavators in a sensitive heritage area. (TR vii)

I do not live in Windsor but have visited many times researching five of my ancestors who were amongst the earliest residents of the Hawkesbury area and worked hard, along with Andrew Thompson after whom Thompson Square was named, to provide food for the new colony and build a good life for themselves and their families. I have often sat in Thompson Square surrounded by the early colonial buildings, and enjoyed its beauty and its heritage. This unique

town square represents an important part of Australia's history and should be protected and preserved for posterity.

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.

Yours sincerely,
Shirley Evans,

25th January 2018