

**Submission  
No 161**

**INQUIRY INTO WINDSOR BRIDGE REPLACEMENT  
PROJECT**

**Name:** Mr Scott Will

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I would like you to consider the permanent change the Windsor bridge replacement project has on the community. Windsor has a limited amount of significant historical structures that play a key role in tourism to the community. One of the major draw cards to people that visit Windsor for its history is the mostly unchanged landscape of the the original Government Domain, in particular Thompson Square which is the main focus for people. The bridge also with its own significance with first time technology being used in Australia in its construction. The bridge is part of the hart of the community with people who have known it as part of the landscape for generations. The archeology being exposed at the moment in Thompson Square is yet again part of the bones of Windsor. Not only is it some of our earliest infrastructure, that was ordered by govonor Macquarie himself but they are part of legend that continues today and sparks conversation of our colonial past of rum smugglers and hidden tunnels. The barrel drains that have been uncovered with people being able to see them for the first time in over 200 years have got people excited about history once again. Locals want to preserve the archeology and wish to find a way to showcase this for our area, tourism would explode if given the chance of actually viewing these remains not just listening to stories. I have a special connection to this town, no im not a long time resident, nor a multi generation connection. I found a property within the original Windsor government domain when I was house hunting. This property that was derelict and most only saw as a development opportunity, so much it was approved for a four house redevelopment, had layers of history literally sticking out of the ground. I couldn't bare to see this history that was forgotten and left neglected just be bulldozed and built over never to be seen again. The property which I now own and have turned into my family home was once the Peninsula Tannery that was the entrance to Windsor sitting on the bank of South Creek at the Now Fitzroy bridge, the tannery played a major role in the town for 100 years. With tannery pits still covering the site and one of sheds still standing we now share this information and show it on history walks done in the area along with even earlier information going back to 1795. Now I have had the heritage department place a section 136 on the property, threaten with further action if I continued to create something that has been described by many people as beneficial to the area and I'm not even a heritage listed item. This is not the fist time local residents have stood up and fought to keep part of our heritage in the area, we lost Windsors Government House, we lost Windsor Gaol because government could not see past the short term gain. A bridge that is not suited to the area and brings more traffic through Australia's third oldest but most important town of colonial Australia is an unforgivable injustice. Tarring up convict heritage when a bypass could restore Windsors country town vide is un Australian.