

Submission
No 171

INQUIRY INTO WINDSOR BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Name: Name suppressed
Date received: 26 January 2018

Partially
Confidential

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 we wish to register our **opposition** and **objections** to the Government's proposal to build a bridge 35 m downstream of the existing, historic Windsor Bridge.

We have been residing in the Hawkesbury for 37 years and over that time have been using the bridge crossing the Hawkesbury River at Windsor to access shops, visit others and as part of our daily commute. We are well aware of issues that are involved with the bridge replacement project and whilst acknowledging that something needs to be done to meet current and future traffic needs **object** to the proposal on a number of grounds.

We have witnessed a substantial increase in traffic using the bridge, the associated traffic jams and the related hold ups. The Government's proposal will do nothing to address the inability of this crossing of the Hawkesbury River to cope with the ever increasing traffic. Cambray Consulting reflects our view.

"Rather than constructing a three-lane (ultimate) bridge which has more traffic capacity than the roads and intersections feeding it, we would suggest considering alternative bridge crossing locations which may provide adequate traffic capacity for a longer period of time (e.g. a bypass option)." Cambray Consulting pg. 24

"If the current bridge was to be retained for local traffic, this could offer a good result all-round. The new bridge could take B-doubles and heavy vehicles away from town, allowing a load limit to be imposed on the existing bridge to possibly extend its life, minimise the effects of heavy vehicles on the town, and retain local connectivity." Cambray Consulting pg. 67

Locals are very proud of this historic township. Tourists from throughout Australia and all around the world travel here to enjoy Windsor's unique heritage. The Government's new bridge proposal has a huge negative impact on the heritage of Windsor. Put simply....

"This is going to be bad for heritage, no doubt about it..." Kirk, Barrister for the Government, Day 2 Court Transcript, pg. 53

We agree with the NSW Heritage Council who believes that *"It is unequivocally opposed to the project for the 'irrevocable damage' it will do to Windsor and Thompson Square. The Heritage Council of NSW reinforced its preference for a bypass option. It argues the project should be refused on heritage grounds."*

Lastly, the money being allocated by the Government will not achieve its main purpose to mitigate the impact of flood. The current Windsor Bridge goes under in a 1:2 flood. The proposed bridge height is less than a 1:3 flood (EIS documents).

Although the proposed bridge would be higher, the NSW Government has ignored the fact that there is still a flood plain that stretches for 5 kilometres before reaching higher, flood free land. Their new bridge would be a **bridge to nowhere** in times of flood or perhaps a very expensive viewing platform.

For the above reasons, we would like to see the project stopped, the historic Windsor Bridge renovated and the Government's money directed to the immediate construction of a new bridge that is an additional crossing of the Hawkesbury River positioned to be a legitimate flood free access for residents and others.

Yours sincerely