

**Submission
No 173**

**INQUIRY INTO WINDSOR BRIDGE REPLACEMENT
PROJECT**

Name: Ms Carolyn Ebdon

Date received: 27 January 2018

The Director,
Portfolio Committee No. 5,
Parliament House,
Sydney NSW 2000.

Dear Director,

Re: Inquiry into the Windsor Bridge Replacement Project

Thankyou for the opportunity to register my opposition and objection to the NSW Government's proposal to demolish the historic Windsor Bridge and replace it with a new bridge 35 metres downstream.

I first visited Windsor while on my honeymoon in 1972 and have wonderful memories of being immediately entranced with the scenic and heritage character of this beautiful town in the picturesque Hawkesbury River region which dates from the beginning of the 19th century. I am fortunate to have been able to return many times over the years to further explore the history and heritage associated with early settlement of the area. The aspects which hold the greatest attraction are the historic 140+ year old Bridge, the dignified Thompson Square with the museum and other buildings and houses surrounding the square, and the character of the nearby streets, in particular the picturesque approach down to the Bridge.

Since hearing of the proposal for a new bridge and associated road works I have been appalled and dismayed at the prospect that this important historic landmark could be lost forever, together with the potential damage to Thompson Square which holds such precious links to our early settlement and pre-settlement history, in order to cater for vehicular traffic traversing the river.

The existing bridge should be protected and kept for local use, while a new bridge and bypass should be constructed further down or upstream. This would be a simple solution, thereby protecting and preserving this valuable and irreplaceable piece of history while accommodating the ever increasing traffic pressures on the road network around Windsor.

As a member of the National Trust I am aware the Thompson Square precinct has been listed with the Trust since 1975, and the Thompson Square Conservation Area has been listed on the State Heritage Register since 1999. However when I was in Windsor last December I was shocked to see archaeological excavation works being carried out causing unacceptable damage and destruction which in my opinion is in direct contradiction of the purpose of the Square's Heritage Listing. As part of this Inquiry, I would hope the decisions and actions of whoever is responsible for these works is seriously called into question.

Yours sincerely,

Carolyn Ebdon