

**Submission
No 180**

**INQUIRY INTO WINDSOR BRIDGE REPLACEMENT
PROJECT**

Name: Mrs Patricia Schwartz

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Parliamentary Inquiry Submission re Windsor Bridge Replacement Project.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on The Windsor Bridge Replacement Project to this Parliamentary Inquiry.

The Hawkesbury is a unique and beautiful area on the out skirts of Sydney. Windsor is the heart of the Hawkesbury and Thompson Square is the soul of historic Windsor. Option 1, the replacement of the existing bridge in Windsor and building an arterial road through Thompson Square is totally unacceptable.

The Government seems to have a lack of understanding and empathy for the exceptional and rare heritage that abides in Thompson Square and Windsor. This is shown by planning to channel heavy traffic through Windsor, the heart and soul of our Hawkesbury Shire. Has Government not got the skill and will to build a crossing of the river that bypasses Windsor for through traffic and leaves the existing bridge for local traffic?

There needs to be a plan now to direct the through traffic away from Windsor onto an arterial road and bridge that will assist in the movement of vehicles as directly as possible to their destinations. There is no justification to replace the existing bridge in Windsor because whatever improvement may result from a new bridge would be limited by the capacity of the approach roads and built environment.

The negative economic, social and heritage impacts of option 1 are great. The traffic chaos now in peak times is keeping people away from Windsor. Windsor needs to be a destination not a thoroughfare. The potential for increased tourism is enormous but not with an arterial road going through the main tourist attraction.

The social and heritage impacts of the option 1 proposal are already being felt. People are observing with tears, dismay and confusion heavy machinery at work around a unique 1814 brick barrel drain in Thompson Square that was commissioned by Governor Macquarie. The wellbeing of citizens that results from faith in Government is being challenged by what looks like desecration of heritage and a lack of understanding of and respect for a much loved community space.

The Liberal Governments justification to the angst and foreboding of the community is to say that building a replacement bridge in Windsor is the cheapest option. However, the sentence needs to be finished, this is the cheapest option with the greatest long-term cost.