

**Submission
No 183**

INQUIRY INTO WINDSOR BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Name: Mr Arnold Teuben

Date received: 27 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

This letter is a submission to the Windsor Bridge Inquiry. As long-standing members of the Hawkesbury Community, we request the registration of our opposition to the current proposal to replace the existing historic Windsor Bridge.

This current project planning needs to be urgently revisited and amended to enable the Thompson Square Town Centre to become once again, a suitable area, acting as the town central square as it was originally planned. This would allow the area to be a meeting place for community and visitors, providing a unique, picturesque and quiet atmosphere, in the vane of town centers' throughout Europe. It would enable the restoration and integration of surrounding historical buildings as retail, restaurant and café outlets, increasing the tourist and local patronage of the Windsor Town.

The current plan will increase the traffic flow and noise through the middle of the town. It will not solve or change the current daily traffic congestion through Windsor. The only way to make future improvements to the traffic is to create a bypass of the Windsor Town. With population increasing on the north side of the Hawkesbury River, the only sensible use of funds is to make a permanent long-term solution to traffic travelling out of the Sydney Basin to Singleton.

The current plan will destroy Indigenous and some of the earliest European history, which lies exactly where it was built. This in itself is a rarity and surely worth preserving.

The Thompson Square precinct is unusual with the amount of history it contains from the late 1700's. Buildings are still in a similar state to when first built. This area should be celebrated as a community asset for the North West Growth area of the Sydney Metro. Area. Communities exist by having open green spaces that are easy to access and use. Thompson Square is an existing green space, which would meet these demands if through traffic were removed. We are trying to build new town centres in the North-West area when we already have one at hand in Windsor.

The bridge under construction only slightly improves the flood resistance of the area. The road south of Thompson Square will still flood making the new bridge inaccessible. In addition, the existing bridge is still usable for local traffic and has significant architectural and engineering historical value itself. It was the first bridge of cast iron design in NSW and is still safe to use. It demonstrates the first use of pre-cast concrete in NSW bridge building.

The money would be better spent on a bypass. The local community and many engineering, town planning and historical experts have shown great and lengthy opposition to the current project. The Government and Roads and Maritime Services are still pursuing a narrow view plan, which will destroy the ambience and history of Windsor Town Centre.

Like many citizens, we would like to see the project stopped, the historic Windsor Bridge renovated for local traffic only and a new bridge constructed on a Windsor bypass. Please, do it once, do it right.

Yours sincerely

Arnold & Thirza Teuben

27th January 2018