

INQUIRY INTO WINDSOR BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Name: Mr John Lindop

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

Please accept this correspondence as a submission to the Windsor Bridge Inquiry. In making this submission I wish to register my opposition and objections to the NSW Government's proposal to build a bridge 35m downstream of the existing historic Windsor Bridge.

I believe that the destruction of the 140 year old Windsor Bridge is part of a scheme to access the rich sand deposits of the Hawkesbury lowlands and is not being built to benefit the community.

In July 1993 a paper was published, 'The Penrith Lakes Scheme', which was a project proposed by the Penrith Lakes Scheme Development Corporation. Instead of vast recreational areas with lakes for small boating activities, picnic areas and bicycle tracks, as depicted in their brochure, all the public ended up with was a rowing course for the Olympics and the relocation of the historic Castlereagh Road.

Some 23 years have now elapsed, and as predicted in the publication, the Penrith Lakes site is now exhausted. So what is the connection of the Penrith Lakes Scheme to the Hawkesbury you might ask? In a government mining publication at this time, areas were outlined in NSW of sand deposits able to be accessed for future extraction. The Hawkesbury area was depicted amongst these sites and was shown to be of a similar size to that of the Penrith Lakes Scheme. The value placed on this massive area at that time was \$65 billion.

I consider that the Windsor Bridge replacement project is an interim measure thought up by sand mining developers to destroy our historic bridge in order to give sand mining interests a clear run for sand barges to operate along the river, as the clearance height of the present bridge is insufficient and the pier width too narrow.

I believe that the RMS are fully aware that the narrow two lane road from McGrath's Hill leading to Thompson's Square and over the present Windsor Bridge to Wilberforce (Option One) will not cope with the traffic flow. With the increasing truck movements through the Square (over 3,000 per day) there will be complete traffic gridlock in peak periods.

The recent archaeological 'salvage' at the proposed new bridge construction site and the discovery of early colonial infrastructure there dating back to the early 1800's are extremely important. The preservation of these, as well as keeping the Thompson's Square precinct intact, would be of tremendous national importance and a great tourist boost for the Hawkesbury, as the destruction of our heritage could be likened to the 'killing of a golden goose'.

I ask that the NSW Government stop the construction of a replacement bridge at Windsor and redirect the funding of this project to a bypass solution, I suggest from McGrath's Hill across country to Wilberforce for greater flood immunity.

Yours sincerely,
John Lindop

27 January 2018