

**Submission  
No 190**

**INQUIRY INTO WINDSOR BRIDGE REPLACEMENT  
PROJECT**

**Name:** Mr John Williams

**Date received:** 28 January 2018

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To:

The members of the Parliamentary Committee investigating the Windsor Bridge replacement project.

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

It's Australia Day today in the land of the "FairGo" and I find myself writing this submission to try and stop a project which would destroy, ironically, the birth place of the Fair Go, Thompson Square in Windsor.

It should never have got to this. When the idea came up to replace the current bridge it was quickly determined that the square's heritage values were such that ANY such disturbance to the square or demolition of the existing, heritage listed bridge would be so destructive to heritage values the whole idea was shelved.

But a few of our then council's conservative councillors lobbied hard for a new replacement bridge, repeating the mantra that the existing old bridge was shaky and at risk of failing. They were wrong but big egos don't like to back down and a lie repeated often enough can gain traction. They made enough noise to be heard in Macquarie Street and the state government saw their chance and slammed through the infamous State Significant Infrastructure legislation. Very quickly the lie morphed into a destructive and stupid plan which to date is being rammed ahead by a government deaf to all reason or logic.

I am aware of what Windsor's Heritage Brian Pearson and Ray Wedgewood have said about the bridge's condition;

1. RMS's disingenuous statements regarding the bridge's maintenance and their claimed traffic volumes;
2. RMS's claims that the bridge has reached its use-by date;
3. RMS quietly increasing the bridge's load carrying capacity whilst simultaneously claiming the bridge was not structurally sound;
4. RMS's continued push to demolish the old bridge regardless of all their claims about the structural deficiencies being proven incorrect.

I trust that the inquiry committee can pursue the question of "**Why the RMS are so determined to remove the old bridge regardless of all their claims being debunked?**"

I have been a contractor in the construction industry almost all my working life and I can tell a lemon of a project when I see one. And this one would be the biggest lemon of all. It would be the death-knell for Thompson Square and I believe once you have viewed the site and pictured how it would be with anything up to 6,000 heavy vehicles and 30,000 light vehicles per day, compared with a bypass which would see only about 5,000 light vehicles per day using the old bridge and traversing the square, I am hoping you will agree that the option One plan would be death for the square.

As regards flooding, I think the flooding issue is over-played. I have lived on the north side of the river all my life and I use Windsor bridge almost every day. I accept we live in a river valley and occasionally it floods. But in reality, it has cost me very few days off work over a lifetime.

If we can get a bypass built it only needs to be at the level of Wilberforce Road because once that floods its all over anyway. I dont see the need for a high-level flood-free bypass. It's just not required. This means any bypass bridge doesn't need to a big affair. Assuming the existing Windsor bridge is retained for light traffic, the bypass bridge needs only to be just a 2 lane bridge at the level of Wilberforce road, nothing like the huge, elevated monster intended for option One. If the bypass was located out of the town, there is little chance there would be any heritage issues to speak of. There are numerous places both up and down stream of Windsor suitable for a bypass however I don't see the need to discuss that here.

We need our historic bridge to remain for local use. We need a bypass of the town to take all heavy vehicles and most of the light vehicles out of the **oldest town square** in the country. We need Windsor to be rid of the curse of main road traffic so we can get our town thriving again.

Most of all, we implore you, the committee to give us a fair go because we can't even get our local member to give us the courtesy of a meeting or phone call to discuss our concerns. Windsor has seniority over every other town which has been bypassed in NSW. It's our turn for a bypass now.

Kind regards,

John Williams

PS: This is a link to a short video

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cclGR\\_pysAw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cclGR_pysAw)