

**Submission
No 193**

INQUIRY INTO WINDSOR BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Name: Ms Caroline Hocking

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Dear Committee Members,

When making your inquiry into the expenditure, performance and effectiveness of the RMS Windsor Bridge Replacement Project I am hoping that you will learn from the various reports an understanding of this issue that clearly is not justified in view of the facts pertaining to expenditure, performance and effectiveness!

I draw your attention to Peter Stewart's review of the RMS's own documents and his conclusions.
.....maintenance activities on Windsor Bridge between 1994 and 2002 totalled 57,347[D16]
.....the whole bridge is in poor condition is not supported by.....
.....would warrant demolition of the bridge for some considerable time....
.....the bridge has not exhibited any signs that it is about to fail.

The proposed replacement of the current Windsor Bridge does not make practical sense when addressing the use of public resources to address a public need.

Windsor does not need a replacement bridge, Windsor needs planning that takes it's historical provenance and centrality into consideration.

Those of us that live on the western side of the river and commute across and back every day for work have direct experience of the volume of traffic that continues to grow. The replacement proposal is not sensible expenditure; \$65m for a bridge that does not improve traffic flow or capacity. The projected increased flow, especially of heavy vehicles makes a new for old option nonsensical. If we are truly looking at expenditure that makes appropriate use of funding then a longer term approach is needed. A longer term plan could ascertain that the current bridge does not have maintenance and cost issues that are incommensurate with continued local use. And that a bypass that serves all of the Hawkesbury would be a more appropriate use of funds.

Please note on a wider geographical perspective that this expenditure will not improve performance and effectiveness because there is a growing need to provide safe and effective movement of traffic from one side of the river to another. North Richmond and Windsor bridges are the only vehicle crossings of the Hawkesbury River in the Hawkesbury. When there is a traffic incident on either of these current bridges there is extreme traffic chaos. The new bridge proposal is a gross misuse of funds, as it does not address volume of traffic at it's current state, for the future or let alone any day or time that there is an incident that redirects traffic.

I trust that when you discuss and assess the expenditure, performance and effectiveness of the replacement project you will be able to see clearly that it does not make economic sense, it will not perform any extra service to the community although it definitely will destroy an irreplaceable historic icon, it will not be an effective solution to a growing primarily traffic flow and capacity issue for the Hawkesbury civilly and commercially. I would also like you to note the projected increase in heavy vehicles and B-doubles. The western side of the river has a number of growing quarry enterprises, the goods they carry, their size and noise factors must be considered when assessing the project for performance and effectiveness. It just doesn't make sense to continue with a plan that does not improve the current situation, replaces new for old only and destroys a vital piece of history.

I look forward to learning of your recommendations.

Many thanks for your time and service.

Sincerely yours,

Caroline Hocking