

INQUIRY INTO WINDSOR BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Organisation: Eastbend Rural Communications Inc.

Date received: 28 January 2018

Windsor Bridge Replacement Project.

Submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project to the Parliamentary Inquiry. Eastbend Rural Communications Inc. is based in Maroota and has been concerned and active with heritage and environmental issues for the past 25 years. It produces *The Living Heritage* newsletter which circulates in the Hawkesbury area.

This organisation wishes to state its opposition to Option 1, which is replacing the existing Windsor Bridge with a replacement bridge 35 metres downstream and building an arterial road through Thompson Square.

Windsor is the third oldest place of British settlement on the Australian continent. Many of the oldest surviving European buildings and infrastructure in Australia are located in Windsor. These include The Macquarie Arms Hotel (1815) and the brick barrel drain commissioned by Governor Macquarie (1814), both found in Thompson Square, Windsor, the oldest town square in Australia. Heritage from the first thirty years after European settlement is rare and highly significant. It is not appropriate to build an arterial road through Thompson Square.

A replacement bridge and road through Windsor will not provide a solution to traffic issues. The traffic issues are caused by the constraints and limitations of the built environment, single lane roads and congested intersections which will not change even if the existing bridge is replaced.

In the last few years there has been an increase of almost fifty percent in heavy rigid and heavy articulated vehicles going through Windsor. It is not acceptable in 2018 to deliberately build infrastructure that intentionally channels all traffic including very heavy vehicles through a town centre.

Eastbend Inc is asking the RMS to identify a bypass alignment and build a bridge and road that will bypass Windsor and protect irreplaceable heritage and provide traffic solutions for the future.