

**Submission  
No 199**

## **INQUIRY INTO WINDSOR BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

**Name:** Ms Christine Butler

**Date received:** 28 January 2018

---

I am writing to voice my objections to the Windsor Bridge Replacement Project and to advocate for the preservation of all the heritage of Thompson Square, the preservation of the historic bridge ( listed as a heritage bridge by the RMS) , for State Infrastructure Laws to be lifted on T.S. and for State Heritage Listing to be re-instated and finally for National Heritage Listing to be granted to save and preserve this precious and unique remnant of our Early Colonial past.

I was born, raised and educated in the Hawkesbury. It was and always will be my home no matter where I roam.

I have driven through Thompson Square for many years and it has been through my contact with my parents and their contact with CAWB that I have come to appreciate the important part it has had to play in the formation of our Nation by initiating the idea of "The Fair Go". This happened in 1811 when Gov Lachlan Macquarie re-named Bell Post Square for the Scottish convict Andrew Thompson, who had come in chains but redeemed himself by becoming a wealthy man running many businesses to benefit the strength of the Colony.

Thompson Square is the only remaining Georgian Square in our Nation and it should be protected and recognised for its important contribution to the fabric of our Nation.

It should not have 2,500 - 3,000 trucks a day rumbling through it. This situation demeans and desecrates the sanctity of this unique place.

The recent unearthing of the 1814 convict brick "tunnels" under the Square provide us with a tangible connection to that amazing past. These tunnels must be preserved in situ for future generations to come experience some of that past "magic" of touching the home of "The Fair Go".

The Hawkesbury District must be spared this indignity being done to its wonderful heritage and an investigation should be launched into finding a bypass route which will be safe and provide effective traffic relief for the future, as the WBRP does not seem to be useful as a traffic mitigating force nor is seen to provide for any future traffic growth as is expected with an increase in trucks expected to be about 5,000 by 2020.

Thompson Square should remain as it is so we can remember where we began. As a venue for Hawkesbury Tourism it should be restored and exalted as the heart of the Hawkesbury, for this was the birthplace of the Hawkesbury, just as it was the birthplace of the Fair Go.

I thank you for reading my submission.