

**Submission
No 267**

**INQUIRY INTO WINDSOR BRIDGE REPLACEMENT
PROJECT**

Name: Mr Antony Lewis

Date received: 28 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

I wish to submit my opposition to the replacement of the current Windsor Bridge given its cultural and heritage significance. There is a clear alternative in providing a by-pass of Windsor township along the Hawkesbury Valley Way and then a bridge across the river further upstream.

The obvious opposition by the majority of locals demonstrates the lack of consultation and the poor ability to listen and compromise by the decision makers to date. The Federal election of Susan Templeman and the election of five independents to Hawkesbury Council demonstrates the opposition is throughout the area. They are not a small, angry minority; rather a large, local frustrated majority. The development has no social license and could achieve the required goals of flood management and maintenance concerns with the by-pass bridge.

There are examples over time of areas of Sydney that were to be developed, that with opposition and compromise have turned into sites of culture and focal points for tourist attraction (Queen Victoria Building, The Rocks). The same could occur in Windsor. The old bridge could be kept as a pedestrian bridge, opening the western side of the river for further commercial tourism development. Some considered planning could create a place of worth, with contextual heritage for the Aboriginal and European predecessors that tourists would and could enjoy. This is nuance and can help develop a city for all.

It is clear from the current excavations that have begun that current activities are clandestine and not being done in consultation with local community and historians. As a major of urgency, the current works on site should be halted immediately and a new agreement reached between the local community and the developers

In summary I request:

1. An immediate to works on the Windsor Bridge replacement site until current works are done transparently and in consultation with the local historians of Windsor
2. The alternative of by-passing the Windsor township along the Hawkesbury Valley Way and a bridge upstream is considered as the prefer solution to issues determined with the current bridge.
3. A strategic plan is developed to create a respectful tourism space in the historic township of Windsor for the Aboriginal and early European cultures. One of the first locations for interactions between these two cultures.

Regards,

Antony Lewis