

**Submission
No 249**

INQUIRY INTO WINDSOR BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Name: Mrs Maree Jaloussis Hayes

Date received: 28 January 2018

Dear Inquiry Committee Member

Please accept this submission against the destruction of the Windsor Bridge and effectively the destruction of Thompson Square and the community's future economic growth.

Windsor Bridge

Having lived in the Hawkesbury for more than 40 years and I have crossed this bridge too many times to remember. In various vehicles and at various flood levels...yet I never felt it would let me down. Even after 3 load increases, to seemingly the highest loads on the roads, the bridge has continued to serve our community. In fact the RTA (RMS) engineers say it can carry its current load indefinitely. So why destroy a perfectly good bridge? Especially when the area is crying out for another crossing I ask you please note this bridge is good for all and a bypass is for the better good for all in the community and wider Sydney as a massive raw product transport corridor.

An independent study commissioned by the RMS (Roads and Maritime Services), conducted by Cambray Consulting have recommended "stepping back and taking a longer view for the bridge and surrounding traffic" and "the bridge and Macquarie Streets are already operating outside acceptable limits".

This bridge has required little maintenance. In fact between 1994 and 2002 it only required \$60 000 in maintenance. It was built to last hundreds of years.

The entry and departure to the bridge are in keeping with the area and traffic could easily be improved by just adding a round-about at Freemans Reach Road entry to Wilberforce Road. This would improve and slow down local traffic across the bridge. A bypass would take the 3000 plus trucks and semi-trailers. That's almost 3 every minute of the day 24 hours a day every day of the year!

Small business

The cutting on the way down to the bridge also provides a buffer to the noise and traffic pollution keeping it minimal.

Elevating the road in the lead to the bridge will only create severely increased noise and traffic pollution and will drive people from this area...ruining these small businesses.

Thompson Square

The cutting allows the many locals and tourists who come to Thompson Square for the ambiance of the area and the beautiful historic buildings and old world feel of this end of town.

Thompson Square is essential to this, of course if it becomes a major elevated road all this would be drastically change the historic character of this entrance into Windsor, forever!

Currently;

- **3000+ trucks are passing a day** creating unrecorded pollution & noise to the local square and businesses.
- This is said to **soon be increasing to 5000 a day** with 2 massive sand quarries just 1hr outside the Putty Rd providing the raw ingredients (sand, gravel etc for concrete) for the construction going on all around the greater Sydney metro.
- New estates are being built on the other side of the river **increasing the traffic flow and causing constant traffic jams.**
- There will be an extra set of traffic lights and **no change to the bottle-neck at Bridge & Macquarie Streets.**
- Even a **new bridge will not allow crossing in a flood** but a BYPASS/NEW CROSSING has a better chance of doing so in the right place.

Heritage

Being a historic town and one of Macquarie's five towns, our heritage and buildings are what makes Windsor and its surrounding areas.

Australia's heritage is not just important for us but for many others too. Just last week I spoke to tourists from Victoria following the walking trails. I've also seen buses of Chinese tourists stopping for photos and to walk around the old world feeling of the Thompson Square area and surrounds.

As indicated in this summary of the The Allen Consulting Group survey of over 2000 people (2005), there are equally strong views across the wider community regarding the value of heritage.

Community Views And Perceptions Of Heritage-Related Values

Value type	Statement	'Strongly agree' and 'Agree'	'Strongly disagree' and 'Disagree'	Neither agree or disagree
Direct use value	Looking after heritage is important in creating jobs and boosting the economy	56.1%	11.0%	32.9%
Indirect use value	My life is richer for having the opportunity to visit or see heritage	78.7%	4.6%	16.8%
Option value	It is important to protect heritage places even though I may never visit them	93.4%	1.5%	5.0%
Existence value	Heritage is part of Australia's identity	92.3%	5.3%	2.3%
	The historic houses in my area are an important part of the area's character and identity	80.2%	5.2%	14.5%
Other non-use values	It is important to educate children about heritage	96.9%	0.3%	2.8%

http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/36885/allens_rpt2_pt1.pdf

Taken from the National Trust website they say this...

Governor Macquarie named the square in honour of Andrew Thompson, noted emancipist (releaser of convicts as free people), Justice of the Peace and Principal Magistrate for the district who had taken up residence there in 1801.

The Thompson Square Conservation Area was listed on the State Heritage Register in April, 1999 and Thompson Square has been nominated for listing on the National Heritage List.

The site is likely to contain remains from the pre-Macquarie era settlement and since its 1975 listing of Thompson Square the Trust has looked forward to the re-routing of the highway around the town of Windsor. – www.nationaltrust.org.au

... The Heritage Council, Royal Australian Historical Society, National Trust Australia & Department of Planning's Independent Heritage Review **all agree**.

Why??

And even if all these reasons were not enough to STOP this cultural destruction and build a bypass then why have so many other towns from north to south NSW received a BYPASS? ie Berry, Yass, Yamba, Kempsey, Nowra, Uranga etc

Particulars when the RMS have announced (27 March 2017 on the RMS website) a BYPASS through Pitt Town...which is less than a few kms down stream and would be an ideal area to run a BYPASS and would destruct a lot less than what is going on here.

Best Possible Outcome

With minimal maintenance this historic bridge and community asset could continue to be used for local traffic.

A new crossing/bypass is a view to the future constructed for all the heavy trucks and semi-trailers, along with traffic from putty road wanting to go towards old Windsor Road/Rouse Hill direction.

Stop the excavation work on the area where the barrel drains have been located and see how these can be saved. Please clear them and add them to the local area tourism trail which already has a strong base and economy ready to be built-on.

The Thompson Square and historic buildings can remain in tact. The area further gentrified to capture the growing tourism to the area. It can also then remain a quiet place for locals and tourists to mutually enjoy.

Thank you for taking the time to hear the community's voice. You too can help save Australia's historic place of 'a fair go' Thompson Square and the Windsor bridge and give us a very much needed 3rd crossing. MJ