

**Submission
No 258**

**INQUIRY INTO WINDSOR BRIDGE REPLACEMENT
PROJECT**

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As a former resident of McGraths Hill I have been aware of this Windsor Bridge debacle since the early days, and still cannot see any logical reason for it to go ahead.

It does nothing to fix the enormous traffic issues that are caused by funnelling all the traffic through a bottleneck at the intersection of Macquarie and George Streets. This intersection is not even getting upgraded but is the single biggest cause of delays in the network.

It does nothing to improve flood access to the northern side of the river in anything close to a 1 in 5 flood, as all the access roads are cut. The Fitzroy Bridge is an example of the "forward thinking" of the RMS - high and dry while everything around it goes under water. It's pointless having a bridge when the roads around it are underwater, but at least Windsor people would be able to use the new bridge as a boat ramp.

The biggest issue is the effect his proposal has on the heritage of the area, the third oldest settlement in the country with THE oldest town square. According to the RMS "...the most appropriate treatment of Thompson Square and Windsor Bridge is to avoid any further negative impact and to take the opportunity identified by the Heritage Council to remove through traffic." Windsor Bridge, EIS, Historic Heritage Working Paper Part 1, pg. v. Why do they not take their own expert advice? Heritage tourism is seen as one of the most lucrative opportunities for the area according to the local council's tourism strategy, but the potential to exploit that will be dramatically reduced if the heritage is removed to build a bridge that doesn't give anything back.

"This proposed design is not based on a full understanding of the significance of the heritage values of the place, nor on any heritage design principles or conservation policies, on which to base a future design. Therefore it is not mitigating impacts on heritage but an additional impact." Windsor Bridge Replacement Project Independent Heritage Review August 2013, pg.8 What more needs to be said except this:

"Thompson Square thus comprises a series of interrelated components – the setting, historic plantings, monuments, fencing, roadways, surrounding buildings and connections to the River. Such squares are rare in NSW and in Australia." Heritage Council of NSW Submission for the WBRP

This is a rare and significant place. Please don't let these lunatics in charge stuff it up. Once it's gone we can never get it back.