

**Submission
No 256**

INQUIRY INTO WINDSOR BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Name: Mrs Jennifer Merity

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I am writing as a concerned Hawkesbury resident. I have lived in the area for more than 27 years and watched the traffic increase dramatically over that time. I have grave concerns about the proposed Windsor Bridge proposal on the following grounds:

- * Increased traffic volumes. I understand that the current volumes have already exceeded the RMS's 2020 estimates. Not only that, the increase in heavy vehicles has far outstripped the estimates. Therefore, the proposal of replacing the Windsor Bridge, rather than building a bypass is short sighted with an additional solution (at greater cost) will be needed sooner rather than later.

- * Replacing the Windsor Bridge does nothing about the bottleneck at the two land South Creek bridge. This bottleneck is not addressed by the Windsor Bridge replacement. You need to witness the peak hour traffic especially of an afternoon! My son used to catch a bus home along Windsor Road, and even more than 10 years ago, he relates the story of a child who hopped off the bus before McDonalds at McGraths Hill, ran in and ordered a happy meal, and still managed to get back on the bus! And the volume of traffic has increased since that time.

- * I have grave concerns about the destruction of our colonial heritage, as well as aboriginal artifacts. The brick barrel drains should remain in place and be part of our colonial past. Not only that, but my understanding is that at least one of the buildings in Thompsons Square is to be resumed and demolished. We need to preserve our heritage!

- * The new bridge would negatively impact Thompsons Square, not only with noise but also the amenity of the Square. As a family, we often go to Thompsons Square and have fish and chips, noodles, an ice cream sitting on the grass in the Square, or a quiet glass of beer at the Macquarie Arms Hotel. My father often comments about how noisy the traffic is, especially the heavy vehicles... and this is usually on the weekends! The plans and landscaping designs for the Square will rob us of this! The slope of the Square will be dramatically changed (for the worse) and a large concrete bridge above us will do nothing for the ambience. Would you picnic under an overpass?

- * I know many people would like a bypass and then maintain the current bridge for local traffic. If you need to get rid of the bridge, remove it and build a bypass down river, which will secure the heritage of the Hawkesbury for the future! I could not imagine anything better than sitting in a beautifully landscaped Thompsons Square without any traffic.

We deserve a bypass.... we don't want traffic through the centre of our heritage Thompsons Square... and this isn't NIMBI-ism. It is proper planning for the future. The replacement bridge will do nothing for traffic, heritage, ambience, and even worse, it will destroy some of our earliest colonial works.

PLEASE STOP IT and give the Hawkesbury something for the future!

Many thanks for allowing me to make this submission.