

INQUIRY INTO WINDSOR BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Name: Ms Jenny Lloyd

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Portfolio Committee No. 5 – Industry and Transport
Windsor Bridge Replacement Project

I am a 7th generation descendant of several Hawkesbury convicts and have lived in this area for most of my life.

I vehemently oppose the Windsor Bridge Replacement Project.

I am very angry that the project has progressed to this point. I am very angry that the RMS and State Govt have ignored the community. The heritage of this area is not only valuable in terms of tourism, but also for residents who have long family history in this area and people who have moved to this area specifically because of its heritage and beauty.

The little town of Windsor with its fragile heritage should be protected and preserved. Its heritage vista and ambience should not be ruined by a high modern, cement bridge and arterial road funnelling 3000+ trucks though daily. A truck driver stated recently that when the Penrith Lakes Scheme finishes in 18 months or so, there will be an extra 2000 trucks passing through Windsor, as they move on to works up the Putty Road. That would make a total of 5000 trucks daily. An incredible number. Passing through a heritage precinct with high pedestrian activity.

For those of us who man the protest tent at Thompson Square in 4 hour shifts, we have seen the huge increase in very large trucks, the roar as they struggle up the hill from Macquarie Street traffic lights is deafening, and that will not change with the new bridge. The pollution from all these trucks has to be at dangerously high levels. Thompson Square has many outdoor eateries, and people sit in the park, walk around the heritage buildings, wander across the busy road to walk down to see the heritage Court House and Tebbutts Observatory. This should be an area of quiet ambience and reflection, a peaceful area by the river. Our city needs areas such as the Thompson Square Conservation Area.

Environmental groups and heritage groups are fighting to retain the original ambience of the area as much as is possible, in contrast to increasingly developed areas. We don't want this town to be the same as other modern towns.

The RMS have changed legislation in 2011 so that any state project that is deemed to be of State Significant Infrastructure, has all heritage protections dissolved, including Aboriginal Heritage, so no Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permits are required.

This change in legislation makes it easy for developments / projects to be passed, signalling much heritage devastation across the state of NSW.

It is an unsettling feeling that at the whim of any temporary politician, for a temporary project, our heritage can be destroyed forever. None of this makes sense.