

**INQUIRY INTO WINDSOR BRIDGE REPLACEMENT
PROJECT**

Name: Roderick Storie Solicitors

Date received: 25 January 2018



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Our Ref: RAS:LH:1810862

Your Ref:

25 January 2018

The Director
Portfolio Committee No. 5
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Email: Portfoliocommittee5@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

Submission: Thompson Square Windsor

I am a proprietor of properties known as 62 to 68 George Street Windsor and 17 George Street Windsor. I together with my former wife and our trustee company Aymage Pty Ltd have owned these properties since the early 1990s.

The properties were purchased in the knowledge that they were and remain heritage listed. We, unlike many owners of heritage buildings, embrace the heritage listing and have always endeavored to complete maintenance work and any necessary renovations in sympathy with heritage requirements. This can be a complex and difficult task. An example was the construction of a door at the front of the building. This involved engaging a heritage architect and completing a process which cost in excess of \$50,000 over a two year period. It involved no significant change to the nature, structure or appearance of the building.

Although requiring ordinary mortals to comply with heritage listing requirements, the State Government can conveniently ignore such restrictions ironically by declaring structures which vandalise historic landmarks as "State Significant Infrastructure".

I do not repeat the history of the locale, the significance of Thompson Square or Andrew Thompson the man. Those facts are probably better made by CAWB and historians who likely make submissions to the Portfolio Committee. The fact is however that the Square is arguably the oldest European style square in Australia and is a memorial to a man who was promoted by Australia's most celebrated Governor Lachlan Macquarie from convict to Justice of the peace (the modern-day equivalent of Judge). The promotion giving

regarded as the principle of "A fair go." Macquarie suffered a backlash for this from his Westminster masters. The Square therefore is a monument to Australia's "fair go" principle and philosophy, not just the man Andrew Thompson.

It is therefore extraordinarily hypocritical that our State Legislatures should see fit to drive a three-lane highway through a significant memorial of Australian history.

The RMS and advocates for the new road through Thompson Square argue that it will improve the amenity. This again is inconsistent with a recent offer by the RMS to soundproof our buildings (rejected by us).

The North West is a rapidly growing area. It needs proper roads and bridges. Ones which are constructed for the long term. Not bandaid temporary fixes which impinge upon our history and amenity. Similarly, it needs proper recreational areas where families can enjoy Sunday afternoons by the river in areas such as Thompson Square.

According it is respectfully submitted that the road and Bridge should take an alternate course bypassing Thompson Square.

Yours faithfully
Roderick Storie Solicitors

Roderick Storie