

**Submission
No 252**

INQUIRY INTO WINDSOR BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Name: Ms Jan Clarence

Date received: 27 January 2018

Portfolio Committee No. 5,
Inquiry into the Windsor Bridge Replacement Project
Parliament House,
Macquarie Street,
Sydney NSW 2000.

26 January 2018

Dear Committee Members,

Re: Inquiry into the Windsor Bridge replacement project

As a teacher of many years standing I would like to voice my deep concerns over the loss of the oldest town square in Australia. On many occasions I was able to bring Class and Grade groups to visit Windsor and its precincts to enhance their understanding of the Australian History unit being studied. In particular Windsor is the most important of Governor Lachlan Macquarie's Five Towns - those towns established, in 1810, to ensure the pioneer farmers' survival during flood events. The old homes and buildings around Thompson's Square were listed on the National Trust Register in 1975 and on the State Heritage Register in 1999. The area has also been nominated for listing on the National Heritage List. The replacement bridge will have a huge impact on what should be a quiet, park like environment.

Currently there is an enormous amount of traffic crossing the bridge daily. Huge noisy trucks and heavy vehicles for haulage, run across the two-lane bridge all through the day and night. The current Windsor Bridge replacement project will not provide relief. The plan is to raise the height of the bridge but not to substantially widen it. Despite this, the new bridge does not comply with the 100 year flood level which is the minimum standard for main roads. This means that the current volume of traffic will not be reduced and will therefore continue to have a deleterious impact on the area around Thompson's Square.

A bypass would provide a more efficient route for long haul truck drivers and relief for the local traffic. A bypass could ensure that a new bridge provided at least two lanes in both directions and was built at a height that complied with current flood standards - without trespassing on one of our most historic precincts. A bypass would allow the character of the oldest Town Square in Australia to be maintained while at the same time providing for the inevitable expansion of traffic in the future. A bypass would also allow the old heritage listed bridge to also be protected.

I urge you to consider the importance of our national heritage, both pre and post European settlement. Please ensure that this historic area is kept intact for future generations.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Jan Clarence