

**Submission
No 275**

INQUIRY INTO WINDSOR BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Name: Mr Colin Fulton

Date received: 28 January 2018

The Director
Portfolio Committee No 5
Parliament House Macquarie St
Sydney NSW 2000

RE : Your Inquiry into Windsor Bridge Replacement Project

Please accept this email as my opposition and objection to the Government's RMS departmental proposal to build a bridge 35 meters downstream from the existing historic Windsor Bridge.

Here the Government is faced with a situation where there will be ongoing impacts in terms of cost benefit, traffic impacts and heritage implications spanning 3 or 4 generations and a worst possible option is chosen.

RMS has the opportunity to save money , alleviate congestion, ensure heritage reclamation , and ride on community support and yet their proposed solution is to build another bridge 35 meters from Windsor's historic bridge and the oldest town square in Australia. And in doing so solving none of the community's concerns.

RMS's current proposal will result in multi generational negative externalities for Windsor, be they steadily increasing traffic congestion for 3 generations, environmental degradation with air quality and noise problems caused by heavy transport as well as loss of heritage that can so easily be reclaimed.

Furthermore there is the **cost of building 2 bridges**, one now (35 meters from existing bridge!) and another in 50 years when congestion and external diseconomies become overwhelming.

As an amateur historian and conservationist but professionally an economist, the current RMS proposal misses on all aspects and disturbingly the lack of an intergenerational cost benefit analysis means that RMS is completely in the dark as to what this is all going to cost the government within a 50-60 year time frame.

It is for this reason that I urge the Committee to **seek independent counsel regarding the long term intergenerational cost benefit for this project** so that a rational decision can be made in terms of government budgeting as well as community support.

Yours sincerely

Colin Fulton

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