

**Submission
No 285**

INQUIRY INTO WINDSOR BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Name: Ms Wendi Nichols

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Submitted by : Wendi Nichols

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Attention : The Director

I am a lifetime resident of the Hawkesbury Area, my family settling and living here for many many generations and i would like to comment on the Proposed Replacement Bridge Project.

My main concerns are as follows:

Massive impacts to the Heritage, historical and archaeological aspects of our Town Negative Traffic Benefits Nil Flood immunity

Firstly Impacts to Our Heritage, historical and archaeological aspects of our Community.

We are in the advantageous position of having early examples of our countries humble beginnings. There has been too much demolition and ravaging in our state. There is no benefit in most occasions just poor planning, and the Replacement Bridge project is a PRIME example of this neglect. As a country and therefore community, we should be proud of our history and we need to retain what we can for future generations. According to previous RMS surveys and reports The bridge is in NO danger and therefore does not need to be replaced, which is why Hawkesbury City Council initially voted against replacement. It serves no purpose whatsoever to replace this fine piece of early colonial engineering which has served our community from its inception. The destruction of Thompson Square is horrifying and one i would rather not contemplate. The recent findings of the barrel brick drain confirm this. This area is a gathering place for our community, and many families local and visitors frequent the area, particularly of a weekend. Removal of trees is a given and would also serve no purpose.

Secondly Negative Traffic Benefits

The replacement bridge will not bring any relief to the current traffic chaos we currently have with the two lane bridge. We do not need massive big trucks B doubles etc driving through our town, increasing noise levels as is happening now. The amount of traffic flow is currently more than Kempsey had when it was granted a bypass, so why is the Hawkesbury any different, why cant we have a bypass? Our community has grown and the population needs a bypass not a replacement that will have no impact on congestion and traffic flow, and the replacement bridge if built will be at full to over capacity when completed. Also if it is replaced there will not be any interest from the Government in a bypass for at least 10 years, we need this now. The replacement bridge is not financially viable as it is only of a temporary nature 10-20 years before it will need to be replaced.

Thirdly Nil Flood impact benefits

The current bridge floods, and the replacement bridge is apparently higher however it will not gain any respite during local as the access areas will still flood regardless. So there is no benefit at all. The higher bridge does mean there will be access by sand barges so there will be more environmental destruction which is totally unacceptable.

In conclusion I feel our community has to wonder about the whole Replacement Bridge issue, it is so poorly thought out and has no valid positive impact. The Council refused to go ahead with it which adds to further the point. There will be no flood immunity either. Why destroy our History our Heritage? And to what cost? There is NO benefit in any way for our area, it will be a huge waste of money, which could be put to better use for a bypass.

I Feel we need to recommend that the Windsor Bridge replacement be stopped immediately and the "archaeological " project cease and be disbanded. Furthermore the RMS need to devote energy and finances into planning for a Windsor bypass

Wendi Nichols