

**Submission
No 287**

INQUIRY INTO WINDSOR BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Name: Ms Pennie Roberts

Date received: 28 January 2018

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

Dear Director,

Re: Inquiry into the Windsor Bridge replacement project

Please accept this correspondence as a submission to the Windsor Bridge inquiry. In making this submission I wish to register my opposition and objections to the Government's proposal to build a bridge 35m downstream of the existing historic Windsor Bridge.

I, like many others, am an extremely disappointed member of the Hawkesbury community. The proposal to build a new three lane bridge over the Hawkesbury River at Windsor is a flawed plan that reflects a serious neglect of Hawkesbury residents.

I am writing this submission to address the traffic issues through Thompson's Square in Windsor NSW due to the replacement of the Windsor Bridge.

These are my main concerns

1. The fact that this downhill, concrete, 3 lane bridge will neither relieve traffic problems nor help in flood times also makes it an immoral waste of money.
2. The 2 east bound lanes may relieve morning traffic slightly.
3. Only one west bound lane will do nothing to ease the long traffic delays from 3.30pm to 6pm Monday to Friday.
These delays are from McGraths Hill to the Windsor Bridge a distance of 2.8km.
This journey in off peak time takes approximately 6 minutes however in peak time from 3.30 pm takes 1 hour.
4. The installation of an extra set of traffic lights at the corner of Bridge Street and George Street Windsor, where presently there is a roundabout, will only increase these delays in both directions.
5. These peak hour delays cause stress and anxiety for drivers before they arrive at their destination and also on the return journey
They have a detrimental effect on the residents personal lives as it results in frayed nerves, lack of quality family time and loss of the quality of life that residents desired when they moved to the Hawkesbury area.
6. There has also been a significant increase in the number of trucks across the present bridge which has increase the noise levels for all residents around Thompsons square and roods through the Hawkesbury area.

A bypass is the only logical answer.

This would:-

1. Eliminate the increased numbers of trucks crossing the bridge and travelling the Windsor suburban streets.
2. Eliminate the morning and afternoon traffic jams through Windsor.
3. Reduce the noise pollution in Windsor and environs.
4. Reduce the air pollution in Windsor and environs.
5. Reduce the vibrations and damage to properties in Windsor and environs.
6. Provide a flood evacuation route for residents of Wilberforce, Freemans Reach, Glossodia, Ebenezer and other villages on the western side of the Hawkesbury River.
7. The Old Windsor Bridge could then be used for local traffic thus easing the stress on the structure which has been standing since the 1800s.

It would appear to be a more logical solution to build a bypass now rather than spend millions of taxpayer money on a bridge that will be obsolete before it is completed. Then in a few years have to build a bypass to cope with the increase population growth west of the Hawkesbury.

In conclusion, this is a project that fails to deliver a quality outcome in terms of expenditure, performance of the RMS or the effectiveness of the department's strategic planning. I would like to see the project stopped, the historic Windsor Bridge renovated and used for local traffic, and a new bridge constructed on a Windsor bypass.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my concerns.

Yours sincerely
Pennie Roberts

28 January 2018