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Executive Director
Major Projects Assessment
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14 December, 2012

Attention: Mr Andrew Beattie

Windsor Bridge Replacement Project

Following extensive consideration of the Environmental Impact Statement and associated documentation for the RMA's Windsor Bridge Replacement Project and a number of presentations by RMS to the Trust on this project, the Board of The National Trust of Australia (NSW) adopted the following position on this development proposal: -

The Trust recommends that the northern most Hawkesbury Valley Way Bypass Option be constructed by the Roads and Maritimes Services as the preferred alternative.

It is the Trust's view that the Hawkesbury Valley Way Bypass Option has the least environmental and heritage impacts of the present bridge replacement proposals with the major negative impacts on the Thompson Square Precinct and the impacts on the river archaeology being negated.

The National Trust is concerned that the RMS's preferred Option 1 would have adverse impacts on

- an Aboriginal site of high scientific value
- maritime archaeological remains associated with the former ca. 1814 wharf, which are of State significance
- State significant archaeological relics from the early settlement period
- Existing elements of Thompson Square, in particular the form of the Thompson Square parkland and landscaping
- Historic views and vistas and the setting of Thompson Square
- Buildings due to vibration from construction and the installation of noise mitigation measures.

Many of the state's historic towns have been by-passed when major road upgrades have been designed and funded. In the case of Thompson Square, which was listed on the National Trust Register in 1975, it would be logical and respectful of the town's history as well as its archaeological and architectural significance to reduce the levels of traffic with a view to reinstating the two halves of Thompson Square which were bisected by a cutting for an approach road to the bridge over the Hawkesbury.

The Trust thanks Roads and Maritime Services for the consultation and assistance provided by its officers and engineers and their efforts to accommodate the views and concerns of the community in considering the many alternative options that were put forward. If you have any queries please contact Graham Quint on 9258 0179.

Yours sincerely,

Graham Quint
Conservation Manager

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