



## Royal Australian Historical Society

133 Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000

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16 November 2012

Mr Andrew Beattie  
Acting Manager  
Infrastructure Projects  
Department of Planning and Infrastructure  
PO Box 39  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Sir,

### **Re: SSI-4951 Windsor Bridge Replacement**

I write on behalf of the Royal Australian Historical Society and our state-wide membership. Including members of our 359 affiliated societies we represent over 30,000 people around New South Wales. The members of these societies and our individual members work diligently to document the history and the built heritage of their communities.

SSI-4951 entails the destruction of one of the most significant townscapes in Australia, Thompson Square in Windsor. Thompson Square lies at the heart of the town of Windsor which was founded in 1793. It not only has highly significant European archaeological remains but also material evidence of Indigenous occupation going back for thousands of years.

The Square itself is listed on the State Heritage Register, which contains this statement of significance:

Thompson Square is one of the oldest public squares in Australia and notable for the large number of Colonial Georgian buildings which surround it. It is the only public space remaining from the original town and has played an important part in the history of the town. It is the only remaining civic space as laid out by Governor Macquarie and is a vital precinct in the preservation of the early Colonial character of Windsor.

Thompson Square is a vital part of the attraction of Windsor for regional and interstate tourists, and the intervention of a high-level motorway will significantly reduce the appeal of the area to visitors and therefore have a severe negative impact on the local economy.

The disruption to this historic precinct is proposed merely for the purpose of facilitating freight vehicles to pass through the town on their way to the Upper Hunter region. There is, in fact, no reason whatsoever for any of these vehicles to come anywhere near Thompson Square when their journeys begin and end far from Windsor.



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The Royal Australian Historical Society therefore lodges its objection in the strongest possible terms to the proposal known as Option 1 which is the subject of the current EIS process.

Yours sincerely

Dr Anne-Maree Whitaker  
President