

Windsor bypass is the go Mr Conolly,

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Abstract: Windsor bypass is the go Mr Conolly, Mr Bassett and Mr Williams: Why does Windsor's proposed replacement bridge and road need to go through the oldest civic square in Australia?...

Full Text: Windsor bypass is the go Mr Conolly, Mr Bassett and Mr Williams: Why does Windsor's proposed replacement bridge and road need to go through the oldest civic square in Australia? Why do you have to repeat the mistakes of the past like the nearby Toll House? (A colonial architectural gem, concealed by the modern Fitzroy Bridge: an ugly and ineffective piece of civil engineering). Why are you not telling the residents of the Hawkesbury (as stated by the RMS) that although spending \$45m on building the proposed new Windsor Bridge and adjacent infrastructure there will be very little traffic improvement, and peak hour traffic can thus, only get worse? Why are you not telling the business people (as stated by the RMS) the planned bridge and road will have a negative impact on local businesses? Why are you not telling the people of the Hawkesbury and beyond that the RMS can only minimise some of the impact on our economically valuable local heritage? (I refer to the answer to Question on Notice 1600, provided last week by the Minister for Roads and Ports). To improve traffic flow, to avoid the impact on the heritage, to improve business opportunities through protected heritage, Mr Conolly, Mr Bassett and Mr Williams please tell the people of the Hawkesbury why you want Windsor to have a third rate option and not the bypass most other towns on inter-urban roads are getting. ? Harry Terry FREEMANS REACH Square impacts not 'minimal' WITH the NSW government about to bulldoze its controversial arterial road through Thompson Square, Australia's oldest (1795) town square, Greens MLC David Shoebridge put questions to Minister Duncan Gay in Parliament seeking reassurances the project will not unduly impact on Windsor's heritage and history. (Questions on Notice 1600 ? Roads and Ports ? Windsor Bridge replacement project). With the traffic through the Square already at intolerable levels of noise, danger and pollution, the minister's responses will, unfortunately, do nothing to alleviate community concerns. In fact, the minister's assurance his department has been working to minimise impacts to the Square "wherever possible" only serves to illustrate there are impacts impossible to minimise. The minister is failing in his duty of care to the community. In parroting the claims made by local Liberal politicians that "the overall road footprint will be reduced"; it "will restore green space and reunify Thompson Square" and "the two parts currently segregated by the existing roadway will be unified", the minister is being just as disingenuous as Messrs. Williams, Bassett and Conolly. So what if the two grassed areas in the Square will be unified? One road will close and another bigger, wider road with more, faster, noisier traffic will take its place, forever excising the eastern buildings from the remainder of the Square. Contrary to what Ted Books thinks, Thompson Square includes the park, the roads and all the buildings facing into the square. It should be a place for people, not heavy, inter-urban transport, a place undivided by roads and traffic, a place used and enjoyed to its full potential. We have been given a gift to cherish ? let's not allow it to be ruined by short-sighted political point scoring. It is time our local state parliamentarians actually represented the best interests of the community and supported a bypass for Windsor and the retention of the historic Windsor Bridge for light, local traffic. - Cr Leigh Williams Hawkesbury Council

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