

Windsor Bridge replacement project

Community update – Urban Design and Landscape Plan
March 2017

The NSW Government is building this important project to provide a safe and reliable crossing of the Hawkesbury River at Windsor. The existing Windsor Bridge is more than 140 years old, is deteriorating and has reached the end of its useful life. Roads and Maritime Services is planning to replace the existing Windsor Bridge with a new bridge 35 metres downstream. New approach roads and intersections will be built and existing approach roads will be filled in and landscaped. The existing bridge will be removed once the new bridge is open to traffic.

The Urban Design and Landscape Plan

Roads and Maritime has prepared a draft Urban Design and Landscape Plan (the draft Plan) to show how the integrated design process has carefully considered the built, natural and community environment with particular sensitivity to the unique heritage values of the area.

The draft Plan outlines specific design approaches and benefits including:

- respect for the unique heritage values of Thompson Square and Windsor
- better views of the river, buildings and land
- improved, safe access and connectivity between the river, foreshores and town

- increased open green space including the rehabilitation of river foreshores and planting of trees
- integration of furniture, lighting and other materials with the existing visual character.

This community update provides a brief overview of the draft Plan. The detailed version is available to review online at rms.nsw.gov.au/windsorbridge.

We are seeking feedback on the draft Plan. All feedback will be considered and the final Plan will be submitted to the Department of Planning and Environment for approval. A Submissions Report will be prepared when the display closes.

Have your say

The draft Plan is on display between **13 March** and **7 April 2017** at:

- Hawkesbury Central Library, 300 George Street, Windsor
- Richmond Service NSW Centre, Shop 5 173 Windsor Street, Richmond

Meet the project team at Windsor Riverview Shopping Centre between 10am and 1pm on Tuesday 21 March or 4pm and 7pm on Thursday 30 March.





Artist's impression looking south from bridge

Overview

The draft Plan shows how Roads and Maritime would deliver a project which is of high quality, is physically and visually integrated with its surrounding environment, connects the community better, is sensitive to heritage values and benefits all road users.

It has been developed to:

- fit sensitively with the existing qualities and characteristics of Windsor and its Hawkesbury River setting
- enhance the existing amenity, visual character and cultural landscape of Thompson Square and Windsor
- maintain the integrity of cultural and historic buildings, structures and spaces of Windsor
- improve connectivity and convenience for vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists.

Key features include:

- heritage values and interpretation
- better accessibility and connectivity for all road users including cyclists and pedestrians
- improved views
- landscape work, tree planting and vegetation
- the new bridge structure, piers and abutments (supports)
- new approach roads to the bridge, pathways and stairs
- new street and park furniture
- improved lighting.

Background

In December 2013 Roads and Maritime received approval to deliver the project under Part 5.1 of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979*. Approval was granted by the Minister for Planning subject to a number of conditions including:

- preparation of a *Strategic Conservation Management Plan* to help conserve heritage values and minimise impacts to Thompson Square precinct and its historical sites
- preparation of an *Interpretation Plan* to outline procedures for interpreting heritage items
- archival recording of historical sites
- an archaeological investigation of Aboriginal and cultural heritage in the project area
- the preparation of an *Urban Design and Landscape Plan* (sympathetic to the heritage value and significance of Thompson Square conservation area.)

The Plan must be developed in consultation with the Office of Environment and Heritage and Hawkesbury City Council. The *Strategic Conservation Management Plan* will also be subject to consultation in 2017.

See figure 4.2 of the detailed draft Plan for an overview and key features. Please note all new assets, such as the viewing platform, proposed in the draft Plan are subject to Hawkesbury City Council consultation and approval.



Artist's impression looking south from Macquarie Park

Protecting our unique heritage

The draft Plan outlines how the use of heritage interpretation within Thompson Square and surrounds will enhance the visitor experience by making the archaeological, historical and cultural significance of Thompson Square, Windsor Bridge, and surrounds accessible and relevant to the wider community.

What is heritage interpretation?

Heritage items and places are part of our everyday lives, but they do not give up their stories easily. Heritage interpretation is the art of drawing out these stories and revealing the significance of heritage places in ways that are enriching and enduring. It is about sharing special associations that connect people with places and culture to reveal meanings and relationships.

Historical themes

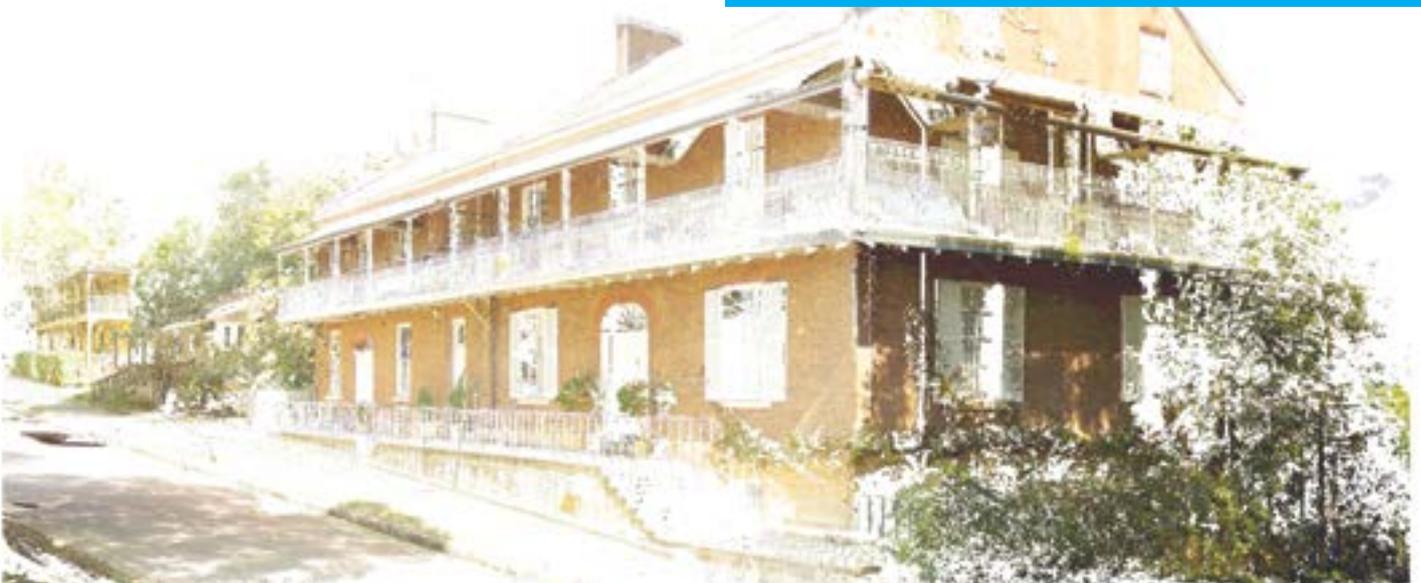
Thompson Square and its surrounding area provides a great richness of historical stories and locations of interest. Based on the Heritage Council of NSW guidelines for NSW Historical Themes, some of the local themes include;

- the Hawkesbury River
- early contact between Aboriginal and European communities
- the 1795 settlement of Windsor and the development of the military post from 1810
- colonial food supply and the development of local commercial trade and civic centre development
- the significance of transportation (punt, wharf and bridge)
- the settlement of Windsor and one of the oldest public squares in Australia
- the emancipation of Andrew Thompson, the designated town square and public reserve.

The aim of the interpretation is for audiences to leave the site with:

- an understanding of the natural history and significance of the Hawkesbury River system both from an Aboriginal and European perspective
- an understanding of the tidal conditions and constraints that formed part of the significant history of the site and still has impacts today such as flooding
- an understanding of Windsor's role in Colonial expansion and the choices made for the settlement of 'Green Hills', its transformation into Windsor, the significance of Thompson Square and the existing built environment
- an understanding of the role of locals, such as Andrew Thompson, the military and government had on the development of the area
- a greater knowledge of the history and respect for the heritage of the site including those who lived and worked there, but also of the continued generational aspect of the community that still lives and works there today
- a personal connection to the site
- a view of the heritage of the site as a living, ongoing aspect of daily life.

Potential interpretative locations have been identified in the draft Plan. This includes a new viewing platform on the southern foreshore (subject to approval by Hawkesbury City Council). See section 4.4 of the draft Plan for more information on interpretation.



The Doctor's House in Thompson Square

Reunifying Thompson Square

Thompson Square is currently divided by the existing approach road into two distinct parts. The urban design approach to the project seeks to reunify Thompson Square into one open, green and cohesive space as it originally once was. The draft Plan has been developed considering the history of the area from settlement, and the heritage significance of Thompson Square and its surrounds.



Artist's impression looking north onto The Terrace

Heritage values

When Windsor was planned and laid out by Governor Macquarie in 1810, Thompson Square was planned as an open space, surrounded by newly established buildings and providing the town's connection to the Hawkesbury River. In 1814, the Square provided the primary access to the wharf and a river punt, the first western crossing of the Hawkesbury River. The construction of the Windsor Bridge in 1874 and the raising of its height in 1896, reinforced the importance of Windsor as a crossing point on the river.

The heritage value of Thompson Square has been a key factor in the preparation of the draft Plan. The removal of the Bridge Street alignment that divides Thompson Square, re-establishment of the visual and physical connection between the town and the river, the partial restoration of the earlier landform and sympathetic choices of material and finishes will reinforce the heritage value of the site while creating a number of benefits. See section 2.10 of the detailed draft Plan for more information about Thompson Square.

Design considerations:

- reunifying Thompson Square into a cohesive space
- the upper square should continue to support the lively character of George Street and enhance the connection to the surrounding commercial area
- the lower square should have a relationship to the foreshore
- both parts should be well connected, rather than separate entities.

Benefits include:

- increase in open space by 500 square metres
- continuous green space from the top of Thompson Square to the river, suitable for recreation activities
- increased opportunities to interpret heritage values
- improved pedestrian access to and from The Terrace by two sets of stairs on either edge of Thompson Square, with access on the grass area provided from the stair landings
- mature and significant trees in the upper area of Thompson Square are retained and protected during construction.

Bridge design

The new Windsor Bridge will provide safe and direct access across the river for vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists. The draft Plan shows how the bridge placement, structure and design elements (such as piers, abutments and lighting) carefully consider the visual character of the Hawkesbury River's landscape setting, the township of Windsor, river banks, parks and approach roads.

Design considerations:

- improved access and safety for all users including improved flood immunity
- a refined, contemporary look with minimal detailing, which responds to the simple colonial Georgian character and heritage values of the surrounding area
- a horizontal profile and more understated visual character to reduce the dominance of the bridge on the horizon
- minimising the impact on views from Thompson Square, the river and the northern foreshore
- a pedestrian and cyclist shared path on the western (upstream) side of the bridge to provide better physical and visual connections between George Street and Macquarie Park
- a vehicle barrier located between the shared path and the roadway, rather than at the outside edge of the shared path to provide a sense of separation.

Bridge abutments

Key features of the abutments include:

- brick finish to reflect materials used in the local historical buildings
- pattern in the brick cladding representing past flood levels
- heritage interpretation panels
- rounded corners of the abutment to provide more open space below the bridge at The Terrace.

See section 4.3 of the detailed draft Plan for more information on the bridge design and abutments.

Materials and finishes

The following criteria have been considered for the selection of materials and finishes:

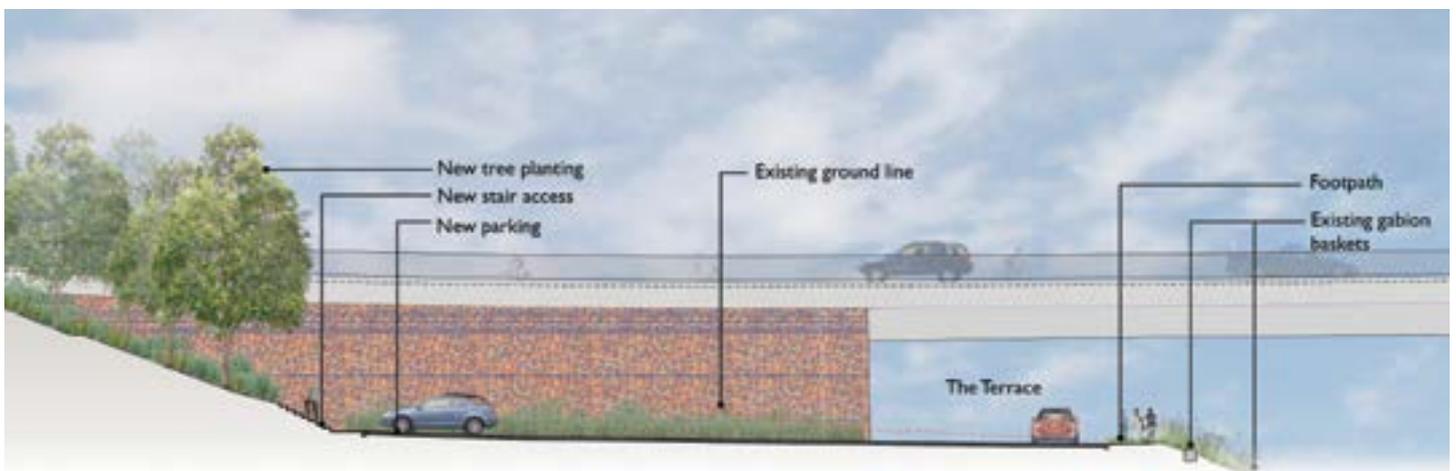
- integration with existing surface finishes
- representative of historical materials
- design life of the materials such as durability and hard wearing

- appropriateness to context and environmental constraints such as flood inundation.

Lighting

Lighting has the potential to significantly change the character of the area at night, as the current area has very low levels of lighting. Lighting would create an attractive night time setting around and on the new bridge, while providing safety and visibility for pedestrians and cyclists.

See table 4.1 of the detailed draft Plan for more information on materials, finishes and lighting.



Southern foreshore

Southern and northern foreshores

The draft Plan introduces several new features along the southern and northern foreshores including road approaches to the bridge, improved pedestrian and cycle access, viewing opportunities and vegetation.

Road approaches

The southern approach road to the bridge is designed as an extension of the bridge abutment which will gradually merge into the sloping landform. The brick clad finish of the abutment walls will integrate with the character of the historic buildings around Thompson Square.

A new safer, dual lane roundabout will be provided on the northern foreshore at the intersection of Freeman's Reach Road and Wilberforce Road to replace the existing T-intersection. The new roundabout will also connect to Macquarie Park enhancing access to the major recreation area on the northern side of the river.

Improved pedestrian access

On the southern foreshore a network of paths will connect the town, the shared path on the new bridge, Thompson Square and the river. New traffic lights at the intersection of George Street and Bridge Street will also greatly improve pedestrian safety. Access for people with a disability to lower parts of Thompson Square and The Terrace area is improved by the provision of two dedicated accessible parking spaces at the southern end of a new access road leading to the existing Windsor Wharf carpark.

On the north side, a new network of footpaths will link Macquarie Park, the riverside and the northern side of Wilberforce Road. This improves access

to Macquarie Park. The new footpath connects to the pedestrian and cycle shared path that crosses the bridge and provides a direct connection to Windsor.

Better views

- existing key sightlines and viewpoints would be preserved on both sides of the river
- views throughout Thompson Square, and between various buildings across the upper areas of the square would be retained or improved
- sightlines directly down Thompson Square parkland towards the river and out over the land would be retained and potentially enhanced with the possibility of increasing the visibility of the river from some locations
- views towards Windsor and Thompson Square from the expanded parkland area and proposed pathways on the northern foreshore, would be enhanced, particularly from the pathways near the foreshore
- a viewing platform is proposed (subject to Council consultation and approval) to acknowledge the heritage significance of the existing Windsor Bridge. The southernmost span, pier and abutment would be retained to create a viewing platform with a safe vantage to the waterfront to enjoy views across the river. Heritage interpretation of the existing bridge and surrounding area would also be incorporated.

Planting and vegetation

The approach to the planting design for this project is to integrate the new works into the existing landscape setting and to further define and reinforce the unique landscape character of the area.

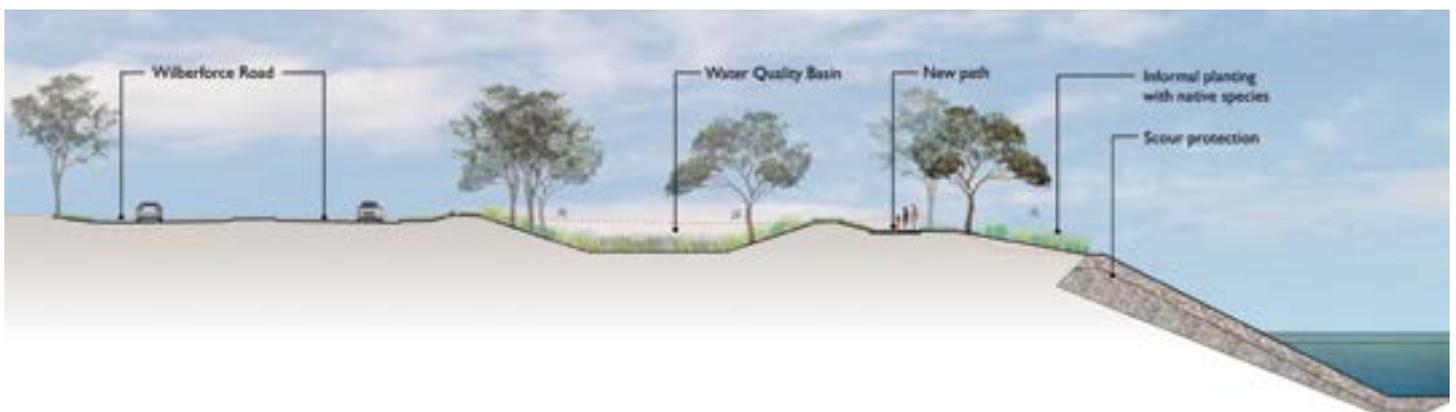
Tree planting on the southern foreshore would include:

- retention and protection of the more mature and significant specimens
- removal of tree species that are in poor health or inappropriate for their setting
- new tree plantings in the lower section of the parkland after infilling the existing cutting of Bridge Street
- new plantings would be similar species to those existing in the parklands and would enhance the parkland character, and the visual character and functionality, while maximising views to the river.

The plantings on the northern foreshore are designed to:

- create an open parkland setting which would assist in reducing the scale of the proposed roundabout
- extend the Macquarie Park character beyond its current boundary to encompass the whole roundabout area as a new piece of public open space.

See section 4.6 of the detailed draft Plan for more information on planting including proposed tree species.



Northern foreshore

How to have your say

Roads and Maritime would like your feedback on the draft Urban Design and Landscape Plan. Submissions will be received between 13 March and 7 April.

We encourage you to provide your feedback by 7 April 2017 to Windsor_bridge@rms.nsw.gov.au or:

Windsor Bridge replacement
Po Box 973
Parramatta NSW 2124

Or in person at Windsor Riverview Shopping Centre between 10am and 1pm on Tuesday 21 March and between 4pm and 7pm on Thursday 30 March.

More information is available at rms.nsw.gov.au/windsorbridge

Next steps

Following the close of the consultation period, the Urban Design and Landscape Plan will be finalised and issued with the Submissions Report.

The Submissions report will be available online at: rms.nsw.gov.au/windsorbridge

Contact us

 1800 712 909

 rms.nsw.gov.au

 windsor_bridge@rms.nsw.gov.au



Translating and Interpreting Service

If you need an interpreter, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) on **131 450** and ask them to telephone Roads and Maritime Services on 1800 712 909

Arabic

إذا كنت بحاجة إلى مترجم، الرجاء الاتصال بخدمات الترجمة المحيطة والشهوية (TIS National) على الرقم 131 450 والطلب منهم الاتصال بالرقم 1800 712 909 Roads and Maritime Services

Cantonese

如果你需要口譯員，請致電 131 450 聯絡翻譯和口譯服務署 (TIS National)。當他們致電 1800 712 909 聯絡 Roads and Maritime Services。

Mandarin

如果你需要口譯員，請致電 131 450 聯絡翻譯和口譯服務署 (TIS National)。當他們致電 1800 712 909 聯絡 Roads and Maritime Services。

Greek

Αν χρειάζεστε διαμετρητή, παρακαλούμε να τηλεφωνήσετε στην Υπηρεσία Μετάφρασης και Διαμετρήσεων (Εθνική Υπηρεσία ΤΙΣ) στο **131 450** και ζητήστε να τηλεφωνήσουν Roads and Maritime Services στο 1800 712 909

Italian

Se desiderate l'assistenza di un interprete, prego telefonare al Servizio Interpreti e Traduttori (TIS National) al **131 450** chiedendo di contattare Roads and Maritime Services al 1800 712 909

Korean

통역사가 필요하시면 번역통역서비스 (TIS National) 에 **131 450** 으로 연락하여 이들에게 1800 712 909 번으로 Roads and Maritime Services 에 전화하도록 요청하십시오.

Vietnamese

Nếu cần thông ngôn viên, xin quý vị gọi cho Dịch Vụ Thông Phiên Dịch (TIS Toàn Quốc) qua số **131 450** và nhờ họ gọi cho Roads and Maritime Services qua số 1800 712 909

March 2017
RMS 17.065

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