



Artist's impression of Thompson Square - indicative only



# Windsor Bridge replacement project

Project Update

August 2019



Original artwork provided by the local Darug community for use in the interpretation plan

## Further information

 [rms.nsw.gov.au/windsorbridge](https://rms.nsw.gov.au/windsorbridge)

 [windsorbridge@georgiou.com.au](mailto:windsorbridge@georgiou.com.au)

 1800 983 657



If you need help understanding this information, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on **131 450** and ask them to call us on **1800 983 657**.

The NSW Government is building a new Windsor Bridge to provide a safe and reliable crossing of the Hawkesbury River at Windsor.

Construction work on the Windsor Bridge replacement project started in September 2018. Construction is progressing well and the bridge is on track to open to traffic in mid 2020.

## Heritage interpretation - Aboriginal artwork

Findings from the archaeological investigations for the project support 27,000+ years of traditional custodians being here.

We are working with the local Darug community to include their artwork, stories and voice and incorporate a first person, Aboriginal point of view into the project's final outcome.

The most important element to capture is to have an inclusive approach with truthful storytelling.

We are most grateful to have been offered an original artwork commissioned for use in the interpretation plan.

## The new bridge will:

- Improve safety for motorists, pedestrians and cyclists
- Improve traffic flow with wider lanes and shoulders
- Improve cyclist and pedestrian connectivity to the Hawkesbury
- Withstand higher flood levels
- Unify the open space in Thompson Square.



August 2019  
RMS 19.XXXX

**Privacy Roads and Maritime Services ("RMS")** is subject to the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 ("PPIP Act") which requires that we comply with the Information Privacy Principles set out in the PPIP Act. All information in correspondence is collected for the sole purpose of delivering this project. The information received, including names and addresses of respondents, may be published in subsequent documents unless a clear indication is given in the correspondence that all or part of that information is not to be published. Otherwise RMS will only disclose your personal information, without your consent, if authorised by the law. Your personal information will be held by RMS at 27 Argyle Street, Parramatta 2124 NSW. You have the right to access and correct the information if you believe that it is incorrect.

## Heritage Interpretation Plan

We have made significant progress, on the proposed heritage interpretation for the project. We have been closely consulting a range of stakeholders including Hawkesbury City Council, Hawkesbury Regional Museum, state and local heritage specialists and other specialists.

This is some of the key feedback stakeholders have told us through this consultation:

- The narrative of the bridge and the river needs to be told
- Words matter
- Inclusiveness of storylines and truth in storytelling
- The Museum's role is important
- Aboriginal history – include local knowledge holders in the process
- Andrew Thompson – telling his legacy
- Don't clutter the square
- Use digital to expand the interpretation story
- Keep any artefacts as local as possible
- Incorporate the military and convicts story.

The development of the interpretation plan is informed by the national guidelines.

These guidelines have informed the local themes which are:

- **Environment** – Hawkesbury River, major flooding
- **Aboriginal People** – Darug people, archaeological evidence, contact between Aboriginal and European communities
- **Transport** – punt services, wharf, Windsor Bridge, trade
- **Government and administration** – 1794 settlement, military post, public square, colonial food supply Governor Lachlan Macquarie
- **Towns, suburbs and villages** – Andrew Thompson, town planning, built heritage, Thompson Square
- **People** – a variety of local people are being researched for inclusion (Aboriginal and European).

We are continuing to develop the concept for the heritage interpretation which may include:

- A website with, among other things, imagery of artefacts, narratives and the reports on the heritage studies completed under the project.
- Heritage signage placed in Thompson Square and surrounds
- Retaining a span of the existing Windsor bridge as a viewing platform with heritage information
- Oral histories from the Aboriginal community
- Imagery of the brick barrel drain in Thompson Square and of 19<sup>th</sup> Century wooden boat recovered from the river.

We are also working with the Hawkesbury Regional Museum on options for heritage interpretation and displaying of artefacts, including the brick box drain recovered from Thompson Square.



## Examples of artefacts retained from the project area



Five Coins



Buckle



Axehead

## About the abutment façade

Part of the proposed heritage interpretation has been telling the story of the river's flooding history using blue tiles in the abutment brickwork façade.

During the consultation we received mixed feedback on this proposal. The river and flooding is a significant historical narrative for Windsor and stakeholders encouraged us to keep the blue lines representing flood levels. However, we also acknowledged other feedback and will make the brick flood lines more subtle.

We've refined the blue brick lines included in the project's urban design, as shown below.



Artist's impression of the abutment façade

## Constructing the bridge

In July 2019 we finished building the bridge piers in the river. We are now launching the bridge deck onto the piers from the northern side. The bridge is now past the half way point of the river.

We expect the bridge deck to be completed in late 2019. After this we'll dismantle the concrete casting bed on the northern side of the river, allowing us to start building the new roundabout that will safely connect the new bridge with Freemans Reach and Wilberforce roads.



Bridge in construction over the river