



CAWB

COMMUNITY
ACTION FOR

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The Hon. Gladys Berejiklian, MP
52 Martin Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Email: willoughby@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Berejiklian,

On Friday, 15th March, Community Action for Windsor Bridge raised with relevant government agencies extremely important issues regarding the potential presence of acid sulfate soils in the Windsor Bridge Project Area. The risk of serious environmental consequences was also raised.

Did those government agencies send a quick reply advising they were completely across the issues, their careful ongoing monitoring showed there was nothing to worry about and they were in the process of preparing a more comprehensive reply dealing with the specific questions raised? No, they did not. In fact the silence has been resounding.

The betrayal of Windsor is now writ large on the landscape, as a once bucolic riverbank is reduced to an incompetent industrial wasteland. The RMS has done EVERYTHING in its power to thwart the democratic process, including reportedly paying bonuses to workers for achieving milestones before election day. Now they have announced the most destructive phase, the thing that should have been done LAST, is about to start. Not only should it have been done last, only recently homeowners were being approached and told it wouldn't start until April.

<https://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/documents/projects/sydney-west/windsor-bridge-replacement/windsor-bridge-upgrade-notification-march-2019.pdf>

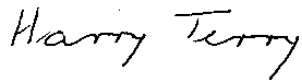
Rather than starting in April, we are now advised this work will commence the first working day after the State election. This is but one of innumerable reasons to hit the pause button on the Windsor Bridge project and institute an independent inquiry. Other reasons include:

1. The possible presence and associated consequences of monosulfidic black ooze.
2. Whether this potentially terminal risk to the river is being handled safely.
3. Damage to both known, as well as unidentified heritage, possibly of international significance.
4. The budgetary aspects of the project, including tendering and business cases - not forgetting Georgiou won the contract at a tender price around \$67.5m but immediately advertised on their webpage the contract was for around \$101m, conveniently taking the anticipated costs for the project close to the total budget estimate published in the State Budget. (Georgiou's webpage has since been changed).
5. Acknowledged malfeasance and the very real possibility of corruption. I could go on...

I write seeking your commitment, if returned to government, that on March 24 you will hit pause and urgently institute an expert inquiry into specific aspects of this project before further catastrophic damage is done. This does not mean, in the first instance, stopping the project permanently, but rather, seeking independent, expert advice regarding its potential negative consequences. This is not arbitrarily stopping something, but simply doing the appropriate due diligence required of an ethical government, in response to worrying questions, raised since the Upper House Inquiry. It is also a gesture of respect for a community that has mounted over six years of continuous peaceful protest. The determined resistance embodied in that action alone should alert any responsible government to the possibility there has been a terrible miscarriage of justice in Windsor, particularly in light of the escalating violence directed at CAWB, culminating in Tuesday night's arrests.

A commitment to pause the project is appropriate, moderate and deliverable. I look forward to your urgent response on the matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Harry Terry".

Harry Terry
President,
Community Action for Windsor Bridge
21 March 2019