

MEDIA RELEASE

HAWKESBURY HERITAGE BURNS



The Hawkesbury Region appears condemned to lose its heritage assets. After years of fighting to save their Georgian town square, tonight Windsor residents suffered another blow with the iconic Jolly Frog Hotel, which had been closed for over a year, gutted by fire.

Local police believe it is damaged beyond repair. 'Not so' say the thousands of Facebookers who quickly started following events on the CAWB Facebook page; they want this heritage building saved.

Local businessman and long-time member of CAWB, Pete Reynolds has a simple message for the owner, the insurance company and the Local Council. "The building stays," he says, "it is not negotiable."

CAWB Chair, Dail Miller agrees; his assessment is sobering, "The Frog effectively protected Windsor from an more destructive roads project than the one we are already fighting against. We will be watching developments very carefully."

Community Action for Windsor Bridge has been occupying Thompson Square, Windsor round the clock since 21 July last year in protest against the State Government's plans to build a new arterial road through the oldest town square in Australia.

Locals now fear the damage to the historic pub will see it demolished to make way for a four lane highway, linking back to the Sydney network at McGrath's Hill. They say early RTA drawings of the project hinted at the possibility with the removal of another heritage building on the same side of Bridge Street as the now-smouldering pub.

But Mr Reynolds is not alone in his determination to see the building saved. CAWB members are already discussing their plans to protect the much-loved pub and find away to coax 'the Frog' back to life.

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