



NORTHBRIDGE  
PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

*Working for the advancement of Northbridge since 1919*

ABN 733 956 702

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September 7 2009

The Hon Michael Daley MP  
Minister for Roads  
Level 30, Governor Macquarie Tower  
1 Farrer Place  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Email address: [office@daley.minister.nsw.gov.au](mailto:office@daley.minister.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Minister

**Long Gully Bridge (“the Suspension Bridge”)**

This Association has 350 members from a broad cross-section of the Northbridge community. Members of the Association’s committee attended meetings with RTA representatives on June 18 and July 23 when RTA presented its report on safety barriers proposed for Long Gully Bridge (which most Northbridge people call “the Suspension Bridge”).

Our members know the bridge well and believe it to be one of the most important heritage structures in Sydney. The bridge is a symbol of Northbridge and its many community organisations and businesses, including our Association.

The Association is concerned about mental health in the community and strongly supports NSW Government in wanting to prevent suicides from the bridge. We congratulate RTA on establishing 24-hour security patrols on the bridge to prevent further suicide attempts.

RTA has proposed three design options for safety barriers to prevent suicides from the Suspension Bridge. None of them are acceptable to our members because they do not take into account the significant historic and architectural merits of this iconic bridge. At a general meeting of members on July 22, a resolution was passed unanimously that called on RTA to work with Willoughby City and North Sydney Councils to develop new options which are more in keeping with the heritage and aesthetic qualities of the bridge. We do not accept that the lowest cost option, as RTA apparently prefers, is the best solution.

Our Association originated the concept of a design competition for architects as a means of generating new design options for the safety barriers. There is widespread support from both Councils and several community organisations for such a competition.

Our Association also urges Government to enter into a genuine consultation process with the community to determine the most acceptable design from those that have been developed.

We urge Government to spend the time and resources to find an acceptable solution for this historic bridge. It needs to be a solution that will satisfy the community for generations to come. In the meantime, the security patrols on the bridge should prevent any further suicide attempts.

We stand ready to work cooperatively with RTA and both Councils to help find the right solution and to achieve community acceptance as quickly as possible.

Yours sincerely,



Peter McNair  
President

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