



NORTHBRIDGE
PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

Working for the advancement of Northbridge since 1919

ABN 733 956 702

PO Box 357 Northbridge 2063

July 7 2009

Mr Martin Gormley
RTA Project Manager
Level 9, 27 Argyle St
PARRAMATTA NSW 2150

Dear Mr Gormley

Re: Long Gully Bridge

We thank you for ensuring that Northbridge Progress Association (NPA) received copies of the RTA report *Options Analysis Anti-Suicide Fencing* dated June 2009 and for inviting a representative of NPA to the meeting in Chatswood on June 18.

Our association has 350 members in Northbridge who we believe represent a reasonable cross-section of the Northbridge community. We have a newsletter, *The 202*, that is delivered to all 2500 Northbridge households and businesses and is well read by residents. Our website is www.northbridgepa.com.au

The NPA Committee met on July 6 and agreed as follows:

- We support the RTA's efforts to prevent suicides from Long Gully Bridge (the Suspension Bridge). We would like to work constructively with RTA to ensure an acceptable solution to the issue.
- The Suspension Bridge has great aesthetic and historic value for residents of Northbridge and any changes to the bridge will be an emotional community issue. The bridge is used as a symbol by many local clubs and associations, including NPA.
- We are not satisfied that any of the three main options put forward by the above report is acceptable from a heritage viewpoint. There should be a better solution for this historic bridge. We understand that the June 18 meeting came to a similar conclusion.

- We are writing to Willoughby City and North Sydney Councils asking them to meet to try to develop a more satisfactory solution, for RTA's consideration, that would be more acceptable to residents of both areas from a heritage viewpoint.
- One suggestion as a way to achieve a better solution would be a competition.
- Whatever options are developed, NPA believes that the public consultation process should present several options for discussion, not just one option (as we believe RTA currently proposes).
- We believe that the Suspension Bridge should be placed on the State Heritage Register, both for the historic value of its sandstone pylons and for its unique concrete arch structure. We ask RTA to work with the two Councils to ensure that this is expedited.

Yours sincerely



Peter McNair
President

Copy: General Manager, Willoughby City Council
General Manager, North Sydney Council
Willoughby City Councillors
Gladys Berejiklian MP
The Hon Joe Hockey MP