

RTA barrier to residents' voice

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RISK: Long Gully Bridge.

OUTRAGED residents and Willoughby Council say they are being kept in the dark about the safety barrier planned for the historic Long Gully Bridge.

There are concerns the RTA will just storm ahead and install one of its design options that was rejected by stakeholders who urge the RTA to involve the community in its decision.

The State Government will heed the State Coroner's advice and install fencing on the bridge, which he described in April last year as a "magnet for suicide attempts". In the meantime, security guards monitor the bridge 24 hours a day.

The RTA has proposed three design options and despite all three being "unanimously rejected", no further consultation has taken place, said Tunks Park Community Group member Peter O'Carroll. "The community feels betrayed by the way the RTA has conducted the consultation process," he said.

"The community is still waiting for July 23 meeting minutes.

"There has been absolutely no consultation with the community in general since that meeting."

on September 3 Willoughby State Liberal MP Gladys Berejiklian told parliament: "The community strongly supports the erection of a safety barrier but it wants a say in what the final choice should be."

According to Willoughby mayor Pat Reilly, the council commended the RTA and Roads Minister Michael Daley for providing manned surveillance of the bridge, but it was "concerned the RTA may soon decide to press ahead with one of the options against the community's wishes".

A suggested design competition would delay completion of the work until February 10 next year, Mr O'Carroll said, but the community thought it would be worth it.

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