

Meeting Convened by RTA 18 June 2009

To discuss options for a proposed safety barrier for the Suspension Bridge

A meeting convened by the RTA on Thursday 18 June was attended by an invited representative from each of Willoughby and North Sydney councils, Northbridge Progress Association, Naremburn Progress Association, North Sydney Precinct Groups, North Shore Police Command, Institute of Engineers Heritage Branch, Heritage Council and the Suicide Prevention Association. This level of attendance showed how much interest had been created by the proposed safety barrier for the Suspension Bridge.

Outcomes from discussions from the meeting were:

- All options impact on the heritage of the bridge, reduce the visual appeal, and increase maintenance on the bridge. The options that gave least impact were then discussed but no single option was accepted.
- Option 1 – the height of steel pickets be reduced by repositioning to prevent the existing parapet being a foothold.
- Option 2 – the slanted mesh fence be considered using the steel pickets.
- Option 3 – was preferred by the Heritage Council as it reinterpreted the suspension system of the former bridge.
- Option 5 – a new footway on each side constructed outside the parapet be reconsidered as it moved the barrier away from the parapet.
- A “Help Point” with phone and information be considered in each of the 4 porticos leading onto the bridge.
- That RTA consider making panels to help the community better consider the preferred options.

The timeline from now is that in July 2009 the preferred option from the RTA will be put on display for comment at RTA motor registries in Chatswood and North Sydney, North Sydney Council, Willoughby Council and NSW Heritage Council. In August the REF is planned to be finalised in consultation with North Sydney and Willoughby Councils and construction is expected to commence in late 2009.