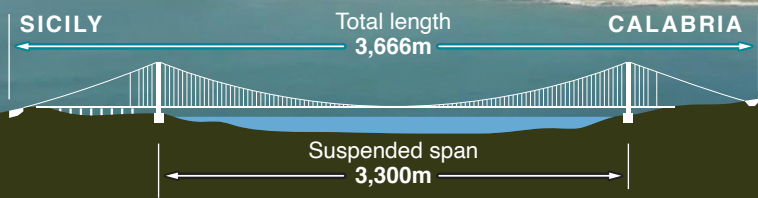


World's longest suspension bridge approved

After decades of planning and much controversy, Italy's government has finally approved the construction of a \$15.6bn bridge connecting Sicily to the mainland



STRAIT OF MESSINA BRIDGE



Cross section: Three traffic lanes plus one service lane on either side



■ **Controversy:** Bridge criticised for being built in earthquake-prone zone and for potential harm to environment, amid concerns that *Cosa Nostra* and *'Ndrangheta* criminal gangs could infiltrate project to reap huge profits