

INQUIRY INTO PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADES

Organisation:

Name: Mr Andrew Fraser MP

Position: Member for Coffs Harbour

Telephone: 02 6652 6500

Date Received: 19/08/2005

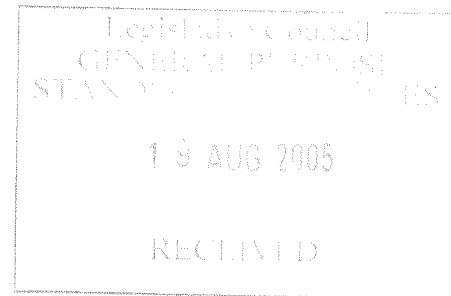
Subject:

Summary



Parliament of New South Wales
Legislative Assembly
Andrew Fraser MP
MEMBER FOR COFFS HARBOUR

19 August 2005



The Director
General Purpose Standing Committee No 4
Inquiry into Pacific Highway Upgrades
Legislative Council
Parliament House
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to make a submission in relation to the Pacific Highway upgrade between Urunga and Coffs Harbour.

Whilst I understand the Terms of Reference of your Committee is focused somewhat north of the Coffs Harbour area, I make the submission under the Terms of Reference 1(b) which states *'The level of upgrade proposed for this section and the remainder of the Pacific Highway'* and also in relation to Section 1(c), (d) and (e).

It is my belief that the consultation process followed by the RTA and Coffs Harbour City Council in regard to the proposed 'By-pass' of Coffs Harbour has been little more than a farce and that the cost benefit analysis failed to give any weighting to the fact that the Chinderah By-pass, when completed, would hugely increase the number of heavy vehicles utilising the Pacific Highway.

The preferred route chosen by the RTA not only severely affects future growth in development in Coffs Harbour but will also have a detrimental affect on prime agricultural land northwest of Woolgoolga.

With the advent of the new Chinderah By-pass there has been an inundation of new complaints in relation to the noise and inherent danger created by heavy vehicles both from people utilising the Pacific highway and also from residents living adjacent to the existing highway.

The proposed 'By-pass' will actually go through the foothills of Coffs Harbour and follow the coast through to Woolgoolga and will, therefore, severely limit the opportunity for future expansion of land which has already been identified for residential sub-division.

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NATIONALS - COUNTRY FIRST

An independent economic impact statement prepared by the Woolgoolga Area Residents Group (WAR) clearly indicates a \$2.4 billion negative affect on the local economy. This document has not been given any consideration during the route selection process by the RTA. A copy is enclosed for your information.

The residents of the Coffs Harbour electorate are also extremely concerned that the Pine Creek deviation, which has been in the State Budget papers since 1998, has been yet again delayed because of consideration of proposals for a north coast motorway.

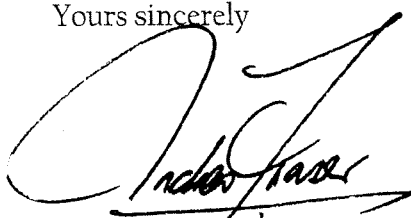
It is my contention that this section of road would form part of any future north coast motorway and therefore the delays are not justified especially because of the number of deaths of this section of road in recent years.

It is my fervent belief that the RTA's proposed route for the Coffs Harbour By-Pass has not properly considered the economic and social impact on the community.

I would therefore respectfully ask that this Committee investigate the Coffs Harbour By-pass, the process undertaken by the RTA and the Coffs Harbour City Council in the route selection process and the obvious negative economic and social impacts that will be created by the RTA'S current proposal.

I have attached copies of various media, WAR'S economic impact statement and other documents for the Committee's consideration.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Fraser', with a large, sweeping flourish extending from the end of the signature.

ANDREW FRASER MP
Member for Coffs Harbour
Shadow Minister for Small Business
Shadow Minister for Housing
New address: Suite 1, 9 Park Avenue, Coffs Harbour 2450