

INQUIRY INTO PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADES

Organisation:

Name: Mrs & Mr Anita & Colin White

Telephone:

Date Received: 18/08/2005

Subject:

Summary

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3) Any other related matters

Submission to maintain the Pacific Highway upgrade adjacent to the existing Pacific Highway and to move interstate transport to New England Highway - See detailed letter attached.

From Colin & Anita White

18 AUG 2005

Colin & Anita White

18 August 2005

Committee Members
General Purpose Standing Committee No. 4
Legislative Council
NSW Parliament
Via Online Submission

Dear Committee Members

Re: Inquiry Into Pacific Highway Upgrades -
1) Between Ewingsdale and Tintenbar
3) Any other related matters

We wish to make a submission in relation to the Inquiry into Pacific Highway Upgrades and in particular to items 1 and 3 of the relevant Terms of Reference in this matter.

We are property owners on the eastern edge of the original Study Area and are now in the middle of the expanded Study Area and are obviously concerned about the placement of the future Pacific Highway upgrade in relation to our property. We are currently approximately 2 kilometres east of the existing Pacific Highway.

Like a lot of other property owners along the escarpment of Old Byron Bay Road and Coopers Shoot Road, we paid premium prices to live in this special and exclusive area with fantastic ocean views and the tranquility of country life.

We have spent a lot of time, energy and money over the last 18 years in upgrading our property and, in our particular case as we are heading towards retirement with little money in superannuation funds, were relying on the possibility of realising our residential property in the future to fund our retirement.

Now all of a sudden we have the prospect of losing the peace and tranquility we moved to this area for, and also a dramatic property value loss if the Highway upgrade route decided on is closer to our property than the existing highway, especially as there is no form of compensation from the Government for loss of value due to proximity to the highway upgrade.

I think a lot of people have been caught unawares by the upgrade proposal, as most thought that as a lot of money had previously been spent on the Bangalow Bypass, that the natural progression of the upgrade would be to widen the existing highway from the two double lanes just south of Bangalow and continue southwards utilising the existing two lanes and building a further two lanes.

In real terms, this would cause the least amount of disruption to residential property owners and prime agricultural land through which the proposed highway upgrades are being considered at the moment, as well as being a more financially viable option for the RTA. For the RTA just to disregard the Bangalow Bypass on which a lot of money has already been spent, would be a gross waste of public money.

We also strongly believe that there should be a legislative change as soon as possible to make it compulsory for interstate truck transport to use the New England Highway, especially now with the use of B-doubles and the possibility of B-triples in the future, as the mix of domestic, travelling public and trucking transport on the highway will only create a more and more dangerous traffic problem in the future.

Yours sincerely

COLIN & ANITA WHITE