

INQUIRY INTO PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADES

Organisation:

Name: Ms Francine Hitchens

Telephone:

Date Received: 30/06/2005

Subject:

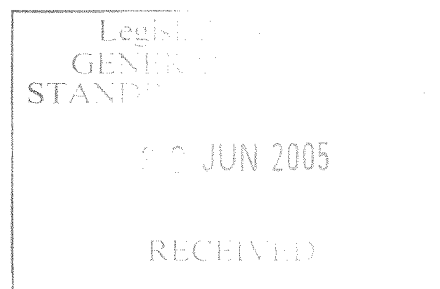
Summary

GPSC4 GPSC4 - Fw: PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE.

From:
To:
Date: 30/06/2005 5:18 PM
Subject: Fw: PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE.
CC:

-----Original Message-----

From:
Date: 06/30/05 16:36:34
To:
Cc:
Subject: PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE.



FRANCINE HITCHENS

TO: THE SHADOW MINISTER FOR ROADS
 MR ANDREW STONER
 PO BOX 120
 WEST KEMPSEY
 NSW 2400

RE: PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE, WOODBURN TO BALLINA.

Dear Mr Stoner,

Here in lies my submission and oppinioons on the proposed Woodburn to Ballina Pacific Highway upgrade. I strongly object to options 2A and 2B, section 2 of the study area. The following are reasons to myobjections.

KOALAS, FLORA and FAUNA.

The proposed route 2A will run straight along a core koala corridor, destroying all their habitat trees within that corridor.

The koala is a listed as "a vulnerable species under the Threaten Species Conservation Act 1995."(T.S.C.ACT)

This is due t the severe decline in koala populations across NSW; having disappeared from 50-70% of their former range. This fact is reinforced by local knowledge that there are no longer any koalas in the Broadwater Koala Park, due to road kill on the Pacific Highway. Rileys Hill (North) is identified and recognized by FRIENDS OF THE KOALA and locals as a core habitat, with the presence of primary feed trees. This fact would be evident to any person who may inspect the area by way of koala scratchings on the trees and kola droppings on the ground.

The ecological significance is overwhelming, with one land owner under the proposed route 2A sighting koalas continually and being fortunate enough to witness six successful weanings in the last season. If route 2A is selected this family will lose their home as well as the high value core koala habitat that surrounds that home.

This scenario is similar for at least nine other families and their properties within the 1.7km section of Rileys Hill Road, west from the start of the 100kph zone.

Myself and the residents of Rileys Hill value and cherish our koala population. We Take great pride in having them among us and will do what ever is neccessary to ensure their survival. This is made apparent by the lack of kooala road kills within the subject section of Rileys Hill Road. It iswell recognized that the majority of koalas habitat the north west section of the Western Broadwater National Park, being Rileys Hill Village and surrrounds.

If option 2A is selected it will alomost certainly eliminate not only the Rileys Hill koala colony, but will also go north over the two river crossings to destroy similar koala habitats at between Bagotville, Meerschaum Vale and the Blackwall Ranges.

Route 2B will have the same affect north beyond the two river crossings.

Jabirus frequent several properties within the previously mentioned 1.7km of Rileys Hill Road.

Brolgas are known to nest to the sotuhwest of the Rileys Hill section of 2A.

The above villages and outlying properties contain a diverse variety of threatened or endangered flora and fauna species. To contemplate destroying these areas under thrret from options 2A and 2B is enviromental vandalism, and must on the issue of koalas and their habitats contravene the "THREATEN SPECIES CONSERVATION ACT 1995' (T.S.C. ACT)

FLOODING -

No doubt you would have recieved documentation from other locals on the severity of flooding in the mid and lower Richmpnd River areas. I am aware of their concerns over elavated flood heights and increased inundation time by installing two river crossings on either option 2A or 2B. I trust and respect these people and have no doubt that they speak from experience. I ask the R.T.A take on the advice form these people and select the flood free route partially esat of sections 2 and 3 in the study areas.

ENVIROMENT and NOISE POLLUTION.

Rileys Hill is a quiet rural village of 57 houses, the noisest thing at night is usually the koalas and other wildlife. During the day we have minimal local traffic, with the exception of the sugar cane season when cane trucks use Rileys Hill Road for 4 or 5 days.

If option 2A or 2B are selected it will impact on Rileys Hill and Rileys Hill Road, Broadwater with increased noise levels 24hrs a day, 365 days a year. Trucks will be acelerating up hill to the 2A/B bridge peak, then backing off on the downhill side in both directions. I feel that this scenerio wuold produce unacceptably high and constant noise levels in Rileys Hill and surrounds.

SOCIAL IMPACT -

If opytion 2A is chosen it will have a devastating social and finacial impact on the ten properties within the previously mentioned 1.7km section of north Rileys Hill Road. Four farms from the one family, which represent several generations of agriculture in this area, will be seriously impacted upon if option 2A goes ahead, with the viability of these farms also under threat.

I choose to kive on Riletys Hill for the quiet rural lifestyle that exists on the hill. We are a community which is very activein protecting our enviroment, not only for ourselves, but also for the flora and fauna that make up taht enviroment.

In conclusion the majority of people in th estudy area agree that a highway is neccessary.

I feel that the flood free route in conjunction with the options 2E or 2F should be given serious considertion and research in the decision making process.

YoursScincerely
Francine Hitchens.