

**Submission
No 125**

INQUIRY INTO PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADES

Organisation:

Name: Mr & Mrs Ian & Julie Ritchie

Telephone:

Date Received: 22/08/2005

Subject:

Summary

From: Jenny Gardiner
To: Steven Reynolds
Date: 19/08/05 16:34:47
Subject: Fwd: Upgrade Pacific Hwy N'thern Rivers



1:36:30 pm Friday, 19 August 2005 >>>

Dear Hon Jenny Garginer,

Please find attachment as my submission to the Parliamentary enquiry.

Ian Ritchie
Regards

Ian & Julie Ritchie

Byron Country Cottages & Talofa Lodge

.....

Pacific Highway Upgrade Inquiry General Purpose Standing Committee No. 4
The Hon. Jennifer Ann GARDINER, MLC
Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney 2000
jenny.gardiner@parliament.nsw.gov.au Ph (02) 9230 2903 fax (02) 9230 3408
Website: <http://www.jennygardiner.com>

Dear Madam,

1. I have attended many of the public meetings regarding the proposed change to the existing Pacific Highway alignment.
2. I have grave concern for the worst possible outcome if the Highway comes any closer to us we will **"go out of business"**.
3. We developed our Rural Tourist business with the surrounding environment as a major component of our decision to buy, build and develop.
4. With the decision from the RTA in 1998 to keep the Highway on its current track we further developed our business.
5. It is unnecessary to move the Highway east destroying rich and valuable farm land with some of the highest rain fall in the State.
6. It is unsound in logic to take the Highway closer to the coast. Loss of beautiful landscape, loss of food productive land, the flat land is prone to flooding and fog.
7. The **secrecy in process** of determining **Options** within the study area is unacceptable. This process should be abandoned now as undemocratic.
8. No attention has been forthcoming in assessing the **Aesthetic value of this rare and beautiful** costal region. It appears to me the engineers delight in cutting down hills and carving tunnels with no regard to the **Value of the Natural Landscape**.
9. I request the RTA accept and consider the **Natural Environment** as having equal value to the **Built Environment**.
10. There isNO FAIRNESSin this process, no...EQUITY....or...JUSTICE in the current process of the suspension of land prices. Entombing properties, therefore livelihoods for years. It is totally unacceptable to freeze properties out of the market. And then add injury by changing the proposed route of the Highway.

The best option is to stay on the existing Highway, straighten and reduce inclines, investigate all alternative options to the tunnel to provide the least impact on the landscape and its residents.

Ian Ritchie