

INQUIRY INTO PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADES

Organisation:

Name: Ms Judy Baker

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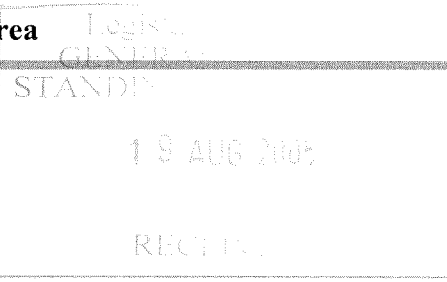
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Subject:

Summary

GPSC4 GPSC4 - Pacific Highway upgrade in the Bangalow area

From:
To: <gpscno4@parliament.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 18/08/05 17:45:38
Subject: Pacific Highway upgrade in the Bangalow area



The Chairperson,

General Purpose Standing Committee No 4,

The NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into the Pacific Highway upgrade program

Regarding the impact of the proposed upgrades of the Pacific Highway between:

1) Ewingsdale and Tintenbar, with particular regard to the following issues:

e) The impacts of B-doubles on the Pacific Highway;

I have recently moved to Bangalow for my retirement. We bought our house in 2001 in Rankin Drive, Bangalow because of its proximity to the town facilities and because of the close sense of community here. Since the upgrade to the Pacific Highway, which took the highway out of the main street of Bangalow onto a bypass one kilometre from the town centre, the Bangalow township has blossomed with new businesses. Now residents and visitors want to enjoy the facilities and the buzz of good cafes and restaurants, some with footpath dining.

However, since the change in regulations to allow B-doubles to use the Pacific Highway in 2002, our delightful township and its renowned atmosphere is progressively being spoiled by the increasing traffic noise. Instead of a quiet peaceful retirement, reading on the deck or enjoying the company of friends at home or in the local restaurants, we are increasingly disturbed by the noise of large trucks changing gears grinding up the hills or of their compression brakes as they wind down the hills.

f) The impacts of interstate heavy transport on the Pacific Highway and of the mixing of interstate and local transport

As I age, I am becoming increasingly nervous about driving my small Corolla on the highway, with large trucks looming up fast as I enter the highway from our local roads. I do not wish to become isolated and restricted in my travels because of nerves. I have held an unblemished driver's licence for 43 years and have not felt nervous before, when I lived in Armidale with travel on the New England Highway or when I lived in Grenfell with travel on the Mid-Western Highway. These routes have a mix of transport but not nearly the proportion of large trucks as now use the upgraded Pacific Highway in my region around Bangalow.

I support the development and use of passenger and freight rail services as a method of relieving pressure on the road network.

I would like to see a network of local roads retained and upgraded where required so that local traffic can avoid using the Pacific Highway and mixing with large interstate transport vehicles, particularly the B-doubles.

Yours sincerely,

Judith Baker