

INQUIRY INTO PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADES

Organisation: Moonee Action Group (MAG)

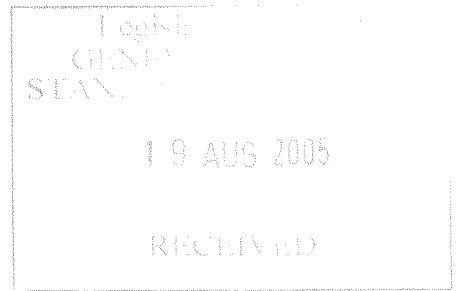
Name: Mrs Sandy Van Veluwen

Telephone:

Date Received: 19/08/2005

Subject:

Summary



SUBMISSION RELATING TO PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE

SAPPHIRE – WOOLGOOLGA

To whom it may concern,

The attached submission (under Terms of Reference item 3.) relating to the Pacific Highway upgrade between Sapphire and Woolgoolga is made to the Pacific Highway Upgrades Inquiry being conducted by General Purpose Standing Committee No. 4 as this upgrade raises issues similar to a number of those to be examined in relation to the Ewingsdale-Tintenbar and/or Ballina/Woodburn upgrades.

The residents of Moonee, like those of Sandy Beach, Split Solitary and Sapphire, have no alternative but to use the Pacific Highway as a local road, connecting to jobs, schools, basic facilities, sport and other recreational activities. Every time they do so, they must enter traffic at 100 kilometres and hour. Like the other coastal villages listed above, Moonee is proposed as a growth area for the Coffs Coast, with an additional 5,000 people estimated on the eastern side of the highway in Moonee alone in the next few years, exacerbating the problem even more.

The issues and concerns of the proposed upgrades of the Pacific Highway between Sapphire-Woolgoolga are listed below

- * traveling speed and type of vehicles mixed with local traffic
- * continued extreme safety issues when entering and exiting onto the highway from the village
- * major disturbance due to large excavation
- * continued noise issues, especially over construction period
- * erosion issues and sediment control due to the close proximity to the creeks which empty into the Solitary Islands Marine Park
- * elevated noise for on and off ramps right next to residential areas
- * greatly diminished local scenic, and ecotourism values
- * greater community severance
- * severe impact on local flora and fauna, with key habitats corridor linkages severed unless faunal underpasses and, or overpasses constructed along the length
- * emergency evacuation from the village
- * young and or inexperienced drivers from local communities having to navigate the highway, because it is also the local road
- * ever increasing death toll and serious injuries on this stretch of highway, especially given the per capita ratio

Thank you for considering our concerns. If you have further enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact the Moonee Action Group via Moonee Beach Post Office, or emailing me directly where I can pass on the information.

Yours Sincerely

Sandy Van Veluwen (Written with and on behalf of Moonee Action Group)