

Submission  
No 205

## INQUIRY INTO PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADES

**Organisation:**

**Name:** Mrs Heidi Craig

**Telephone:**

**Date Received:** 8/11/2005

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**Subject:**

**Summary**

The Hon Jenny Gardiner MLC (Chair)  
General Purpose Standing Committee No. 4  
Inquiry into the Pacific Highway Upgrades  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
Sydney  
NSW 2000

28<sup>th</sup> October 2005

Dear Ms Garginer

Thank you for the Standing Committee's efforts in establishing the processes that were followed by the RTA in regards to the proposed Upgrading of the Pacific Highway-Woodburn to Ballina.

I bring your attention additional information in light of presentations at the Parliamentary Inquiry Public Hearing and Public Forum convened in Ballina yesterday.

#### MAPPING

The first of these discrepancies relates to the maps that were presented by RTA and their consultants to the public.

- The public had no way of knowing where the route were proposed to go due to a multitude of maps being used showing vastly different positions and poor reference to landmarks. The details of my concerns were outlined in my letter to Mr Michael Costa in June this year, a copy of which is attached. I also enclose a copy of his office's only response to me. I also sent this letter to Mr Shane Higgins, RTA Project Manager and Mr Paul Forward, RTA CEO neither of whom replied or acknowledged my letter. I thank Mr Don Page for his courteous response.

- When I was unable to get a copy of the Route Options Display brochure from the RTA office in Ballina I asked if they could arrange to get more copies. The staff advised me to telephone GeoLink, which I did but none were available. Two weeks later when the public was still unable to obtain a copy, I was given a phone number of RTA in Sydney to call where the details were noted but no additional copies were made available to my knowledge.
- I have recently looked again at the original letter and map (copy enclosed) sent to landholders in December 2004 which shows the study area as being away from the Blackwall Range. The Blackwall escarpment forms part of a Big Scrub remnant, 'Coolgardie Scrub' which is listed on the Register of National Estate for its rare and endangered species (information sheet enclosed). The foldout brochure, Route Options Display, produced for community information in May 2005 states proposed option 3A "follows the edge of the Blackwall Range". Although I have been active in this process from the beginning I was unaware of the intention of RTA to remove the high conservation value scenic escarpment at Whytes Lane through to Coolgardie Road for road base. This is perhaps some of the information that the CLG members held but were unable to discuss with residents including those directly affected.

#### INACCURATE INFORMATION

The second issue relates to data being used by the RTA of which they have been notified through the CLG and submissions as being inaccurate yet there appears to be no attempt or process to correct data.

- One example of this is the reference to "40 homes" that were deemed to be impacted in the vicinity of Broadwater Quarry on proposed route 2E. This number was reportedly attained by staff counting buildings from an aerial photograph. A glance by locals at this same photo readily identifies this to be in error. Ground truthing by local resident, Rob Graham revealed that there are only 3 homes and the remainder of the buildings are demountable quarry offices, farm sheds and other out buildings.
- The Sandalwood Caravan Park on Pimlico Road was counted as one house yet there are 40 residential homes on that site. See attached excerpt from CLG Meeting

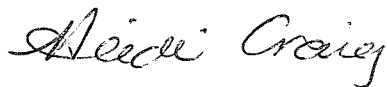
No.7, Member 13.

- The 55 homes between Thurgates Lane and Coolgardie Road (including Meridian Heights subdivision) that will be directly affected by proposed option 3A did not appear on maps.
- The entire Cabbage Tree Island community (see attached excerpt from CLG Meeting No.7, Member 16) was not included in the data given to the public during the display of route options. This cannot be attributed to the erroneous placement of a text box on a map and no explanation has been given by RTA or the consultants.

All of this information is known by the RTA and their consultants yet the process does not appear to amend blatant errors. This does not seem to be an acceptable practise.

I would like to express my appreciation for the opportunity your Committee gave the community to express their varied opinions and for the patience displayed in this process. The Ballina to Woodburn community looks forward to the release of the Standing Committee's Recommendations and hopefully subsequent action by the RTA.

Yours sincerely



Heidi Craig (Mrs)

enc.    copy of letter HC to Mr Costa  
         copy of letter to HC from Mr Costa  
         copy of letter and map sent to landholders showing Woodburn to Ballina study area  
         Coolgardie Scrub listing on Register of National Estate  
         Excerpts from Woodburn to Ballina CLG Meeting No.7