

**Submission
No 136**

INQUIRY INTO PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADES

Organisation:

Name: Mr Jack McAndrew

Telephone:

Date Received: 23/08/2005

Subject:

Summary

NSW Legislative Council Investigation of the Ewingsdale to
Tintenbar upgrade of the Pacific highway: Submission by
Norma & Jack McAndrew

We are being penalized by the RTA with suggestions of a six lane Highway Sydney to Brisbane. Who has the right to take private land away from the owner to provide for a six lane highway? What is wrong with upgrading transport needs by using rail? The infrastructure already exists for this.

This is good farming land. Good volcanic soil for fruit, vegetables, coffee etc. We have built a dam that provides water for cows, coffee, rainforest trees. We have planted more than 1,000 rainforest trees and cared for them carefully until they are now able to grow on their own. They provide homes for birds and small animals. We have built our own home, created gardens, with native trees. Migratory birds have become regular users of the dam, annually producing young ones. What happens to the flora and fauna if a highway goes through? They are rare enough now. Why make them rarer by taking their home?

Our dream was to live at Coopers Shoot. We came here in 1996 to spend winter from Sydney. We now spend more time here than in Sydney. Our dream was to build the dam and then a house. We did both while in our seventies. Jack is now 80 and I am 78. My husband has serious heart problems and lung disease. I have high blood pressure. Our home is our respite. Chosen to be close to the medical centre in Bangalow and Byron Hospital when needed. Our health depends on our peace of mind. Can you imagine how our health has suffered with this plan to include where we live in the highway upgrade corridor? It is very stressful. Why should we have our home taken from us? Who has the right to take our lives from us? Our dream has turned into a nightmare. This cannot continue. Our land has been stolen.

Yours with the greatest of concern

Norma & Jack McAndrew

16 August 2005

