

**Submission
No 177**

INQUIRY INTO PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADES

Organisation:

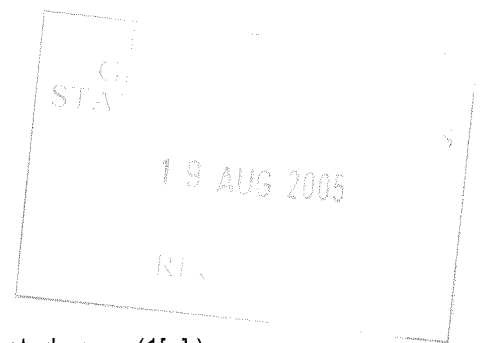
Name: Mr Markus Pache & Ms Kalyani Newman

Telephone:

Date Received: 19/08/2005

Subject:

Summary



Reference: Flawed process of expanding the original highway-upgrade study area (1[a])

We are residents of _____ Our property was NOT part of the original study area.
The extension of the study area now includes our land and home.

We bought our family home in February 2002. When investigating proposed or future upgrades of the Pacific Highway prior to the purchase, we rang the RTA office in Grafton. We were referred to a "senior project officer" (I wish we would have noted his name). Our question for this officer was whether there are any plans or reasonable expectations that the highway could be upgraded using the flood plains of Newrybar Swamp (right in front of our home). We were told that all plans of the past decade considered only a possible upgrade on the ridge-line. This area had long been zoned for the upgrade, the road base would be far superior, the RTA would already own the land up there plus some of the properties right next to the existing highway. And the upgrade would have to meet the already approved Ballina Bypass on the ridge near Ross Lane, suggesting it would need to stay on the ridge anyway. All these items were strong indicators that the upgrade would stay within the existing highway corridor/on the ridge. So we were told.

We bought our new family home just weeks later, being satisfied that we would not have to deal with the distress of a possible upgrade in front of/or through our property (house). We are now deeply concerned about recent developments in this matter.

We believe it to be completely unreasonable that the study area was suddenly extended - and wonder what the real reasons behind this irresponsible decision are.

Yours truly
Markus Pache & Kalyani Newman