

Submission
No 61

INQUIRY INTO PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADES: COFFS HARBOUR

Organisation:

Name: Mr Warren Williams

Telephone:

Date Received: 25/11/2005

Subject:

Summary

Recd GPSC
25/11/05 90

22 Nov 05

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 4
Parliament House
Macquarie St
SYDNEY
NSW 2000

Att: The Director, GPSC No. 4

On the 21 Nov 05, I attended the GPSC No. 4 Public Hearing held in the Coffs Harbour RSL as a public observer. I was unaware that a hearing was to be held in the Coffs Harbour area until I read an article in the local newspaper on the Saturday prior to the hearing being held. At the conclusion of the hearing I asked a member of the committee could I contribute a submission in writing to a major problem, which affects the residents of Boambee East. I would have preferred to give a verbal submission to the committee but this was not an option, due to the time frame involved. As was mentioned during the submission of evidence from various parties, the majority of members of the community say nothing on government issues, as they believe that they are "wasting energy". After today's hearing, maybe any small contributions to the issue may achieve an outcome.

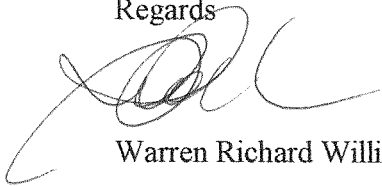
My submission is twofold. The first is to point out the issue of southbound traffic along the section of highway prior to the Bonville/Pine Creek section of road and the other is a response from the RTA about road traffic noise in the Boambee East area.

Attached is a letter that I sent to the RTA office in Grafton on the 2 Mar 05, and the response I received. In my letter to the RTA, I make mention of the traffic situation, especially those vehicles traveling south, between Englands Road and Lyons Road. I believe that if this dual section of highway was restricted to 80 kph and controlled, it could help to reduce the number of accidents in the Bonville/Pine Creek area due to the fact that the vehicles are not racing each other to enter the single lane highway just south of Lyons Road.

As to the response from the RTA about the noise issue, they state that environment constraints were undertaken as required under the EIS. I believe that the EIS was undertaken in 1998 which would have been out of date by the time the road was completed. The road was completed in 2001. Since the EIS was completed a large number of new homes have been constructed east of the highway between Englands Road and Lyons Road and the RTA acknowledge, in their letter, that the noise level is high for the area, but advise that they have met their obligations under the environmental legislation. This is a far from satisfactory outcome as hundreds of homes in the Boambee East area are affected by the road noise, especially at night. This is another instance of the RTA admitting that there is a problem but is not willing to conform to community standards.

I would like to thank you for this opportunity to be able to contribute to the two major issue in the Boambee East and Bonville/Pine Creek areas which affect thousands of residents of these communities.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'WR Williams', written over the word 'Regards'.

Warren Richard Williams

Attachments:

1. Letter to RTA dated 2 Mar 05
2. Response from RTA date 18 Mar 05