

INQUIRY INTO PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADES

Organisation:

Name: Ms Ruth Gotterson

Telephone:

Date Received: 15/08/2005

Subject:

Summary

Dear Ms Gardiner,

As a resident in the current study area for the pacific highway upgrade, I obviously have personal reasons for not wanting a highway in my front or back yard BUT, aside from my personal views I implore you to look at the logical facts presented for "KEEPING THE HIGHWAY ON THE HIGHWAY".

To the immediate south, the residents surrounding the approved Ballina Bypass have suffered through a whole process of consultation and planning to have finally been told a route had not only been confirmed but was due to be completed by now. Land has been acquired by the RTA and residents of the surrounding "unaffected" areas have in good faith bought property and invested in expensive infrastructure based on these confirmed plans.

To the north of the study zone, the Bangalow Bypass has already been completed at a cost of \$19m.

Land has been acquired and rezoned for highway upgrade along the existing corridor

Is it unfair to assume with all this infrastructure in place that the upgrade would be built to join these two points?

When the study zone was expanded, the stress and undue emotional strain put on people's lives borders on criminal. There is no justification for this abhorrent waste of tax payers money in having to pay for another consultation process when 2 have already been completed.

I purchased my home 2 years ago. No search showed any potential for my property to be dissected by a highway or for a highway to infringe on my amenity in any way. I have built a home, planted thousands of rainforest trees and had assumed my children would grow up here in this beautiful scenic area. There has to be some question of fairness even in the argument for "the greater good". If the decision to upgrade the highway is for it not to follow the existing corridor, and in fact to move East then it is with blatant disregard for planning regulations, i.e. highways should not be within 5kms of communities.

I would hope that before any decisions are made that you would take the time to come and spend some time in this incredibly sensitive area and see for yourself how a potentially 6 lane highway will adversely affect this region should it deviate from the exciting corridor.

Yes the highway does need to be upgraded for safety reasons and this could start immediately if it were to be exactly that- an upgrade! Restrict the study area to the existing corridor which if nothing else good sense should tell you. Let the land owners get on with planning their lives which in turn is for "the greater good" of our society. We live in an area of intensive farming with some of the most fertile soils in the country. If there was NO option then we may be more accepting of this expanded study area but there has been no valid explanation for this blatant waste of money or the disruption to the whole community.

You are welcome to visit my home at any time and see the impact this highway will have on the area should it be moved east.

Kind Regards,
Ruth Gotterson

