

INQUIRY INTO PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADES

Organisation:

Name: Mr Mark Byrne

Telephone:

Date Received: 21/10/2005

Subject:

Summary

Received 21/10/05

20.10.05

To

HON JENNY GARDINER MLC
COMMITTEE CHAIR

DEAR JENNY,

FAXING THROUGH MY
LETTER OF THREE PAGES, CONCERNING
THE WOODBURN TO BALLINA PACIFIC
HIGHWAY UPGRADE.

ALSO FAXING THROUGH
JOHN BROOMHEAD WEATHER
WARNING.

YOURS SINCERELY

MARK BYRNE

Mark Byrne.

20.10.05

HON JENNY GARDINER MLC
COMMITTEE CHAIR,

DEAR JENNY,

MY NAME IS MARK BYRNE OF BROADWATER. THE BYRNE FARM HAS BEEN IN THE FAMILY SINCE THE 1860'S. DAN & JOHN BYRNE TOOK UP SELECTION OF THIS PROPERTY & BECAME PIONEERS OF BROADWATER.

I CAN'T STRESS ENOUGH MY UTTER DISGUST WITH THE COMMUNITY LIAISON GROUP & WE FEEL STRONGLY THAT WE HAVE NO ONE REPRESENTING THE TOWN OF BROADWATER & THE IMPACTS ON OUR COMMUNITY IF ANY OF THESE ROUTES ARE CHOSEN.

THE C.L.G. WENT RIGHT OUTSIDE THE STUDY AREA TO THE EAST, NOT TO THE WEST FOR HIGHER GROUND. THE ROUTE THEY ARE PUSHING FOR IS THROUGH THE NATIONAL PARK, THROUGH THE HISTORIC BYRNE FARM THEN CROSSING THE RIVER AT LAWS POINT. THEY HAVE THE HIDE TO CALL THIS THE "FLOOD FREE ROUTE".

THE BYRNE FARM RUNS ALONG THE PACIFIC HIGHWAY & THE RICHMOND RIVER FROM RATTLE CREEK TO EVERSONS CREEK. IT IS ALSO DOWN RIVER FROM THE BROADWATER RIVER. THE FARM IS THE LOWEST POINT IN BROADWATER FOR FLOODING.

MY FATHER, DANIEL FRANCIS BYRNE, IN HIS LIFETIME THE FARM WAS DEVASTED BY THE MASSIVE FLOODS OF 1948, 1954 & 1974. THESE FLOODS DESTROYED STOCK & CROPS. IF WE RECEIVE UP TO 6" OR MORE OF RAIN WE CAN EXPECT FLOODING FROM EVERSONS CREEK. THIS FARM IS NOT FLOOD FREE.

MY DAD SAID, "THE 1948 CYCLONE WAS THE WORST." "THE WIND & RAIN WAS SO HARD, THE CATTLE WOULD NOT MOVE." "THEY FROZE TO DEATH WHERE THEY STOOD OR WERE WASH AWAY TO THEIR DEATH."

AS I HAVE SAID BEFORE THE BYRNE FAMILY HAVE PIONEERED THIS FARM SINCE THE 1860'S & STILL OWN & OPERATE THIS FARM. WITH MORE THAN 140 YEARS OF TIME ON OUR BELOVED FARM, WE KNOW WHERE & HOW THE FLOODS WORK. THIS FARM IS NOT FLOOD FREE.

THE CLG (COMMUNITY LIAISON GROUP) SAYING THERE ROUTE IS FLOOD FREE IS A PACK OF LIES. IN SATURDAYS NORTHERN STAR, OUR LOCAL PAPER DATED 15.10.05 PAGE 10 & 11.

MR JOHN BROOMHEAD A ~~COSTAL~~ COASTAL MANAGEMENT HONOURS STUDENT AT SOUTHERN CROSS UNIVERSITY, SAID THAT "A CATEGORY THREE CYCLONE WHICH HE EXPECTS TO ^{HIT} US IN THE NEXT THREE YEARS, WOULD FLOOD THE AREA TO THE EXTENT IT MADE BOUNDARY CREEK & EVERSONS CREEK PERMANENT SEA OUTLETS FOR THE RICHMOND RIVER."

"MORE THAN 500 HECTARES OF LAND MOSTLY, FARMING LAND BETWEEN EVANS HEAD & BALLINA WOULD BE FLOODED, INCLUDING WHERE THE NEW PACIFIC HIGHWAY IS BEING PLANNED FOR."

"THIS AREA WAS NEVER BUILT FOR CATEGORY THREE CYCLONES & IT WOULD BE DEVASTATING!"

"OUR PLANNERS HAVE TO BE ASKED WHY THEY ARE ALLOWING INFRASTRUCTURE IN AN AREA WHERE RESEARCH IS SHOWING IS LIKELY TO BE WIPE OUT."

MY BROTHER PETER & MYSELF WERE NEARLY WASHED AWAY IN A ROW BOAT IN THE 1974 FLOOD. WE HEADED QUICKLY FOR OUR BUSH TO ESCAPE THE RAGING CURRENT HEADING TOWARDS EVERSON'S CREEK. THE FARM WOULD OF HAD 4 TO MORE METRES OF WATER OVER IT.

IN THE EARLY 1960'S THE SEA BROKE THROUGH AT BOUNDARY CREEK, AT THE BEACH SPOT KNOWN AS SPENCERS BEACH.

I HOPE YOU WILL HAVE TIME TO READ MY LETTER. I'VE BEEN BOOKED IN 3RD ON THE RESERVE LIST FOR SPEAKING AT THE 6PM TO 8PM MEETING. THERE IS SO MUCH I CAN TELL YOU. I'VE JUST COVERED BRIEFLY SOME MAJOR POINTS.

PLEASE NOTE THE C.L.G (WOODBURN TO BALLINA) SPEAKERS, TWO OF THEM DON'T LIVE IN BROADWATER & THE OTHER HAS BEEN HERE ABOUT TWO YEARS. THIS GROUP DOES NOT REPRESENT US. DON'T BE MISLED BY THERE SMOOTH TALKING.

IF THERE IS A PREFERRED ROUTE, IT WOULD BE WEST OF THE RICHMOND RIVER, AS FAR AS ONE COULD GO TO FIND SUITABLE HIGH GROUND. ONE ROUTE COULD BE THE SUMMER LAIDWAY WITH A NEW BRIDGE AT GRAFTON, BY PASSING CASINO & KYOGLE WITH ON & OFF RAMPS TO THIS TOWNS & PROCEEDING FURTHER NORTH.

YOURS SINCERELY
Mark Byrne