

INQUIRY INTO PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADES

Organisation:

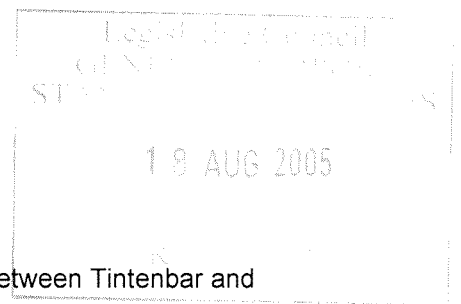
Name: Dr James and Bronte Carlopio

Telephone:

Date Received: 18/08/2005

Subject:

Summary



We are concerned about the impact of the Pacific Highway upgrade between Tintenbar and Ewingsdale.

Our main concerns are in relation to:

1. elements from your terms of reference points 1e and 1f regarding the impacts of B-doubles and the mixing of interstate heavy transport and local transport on the Pacific Highway, and
2. of even greater concern is the fact that the proposed Highway upgrade seriously threatens the Emigrant Creek water catchment area and this is not even in your terms of reference.

Point 1. Our main concern here is that the mixing of interstate heavy transport and local transport has resulted in a frighteningly dangerous situation for those of us who drive ourselves and our families on the Pacific Highway. The number of accidents between trucks and cars is alarming. Six months ago, a woman was hospitalised and her child was killed in an accident just a few kilometres down the Pacific Highway from where we live when a truck went over the middle line and hit her car. If we can keep B-doubles off the coastal Highway and not mix interstate heavy transport and local transport we can save lives. Another problem with interstate heavy transport being on the Pacific Highway is that it creates a great deal of noise. We live two kilometres from the existing highway and we have noticed a significant increase in truck noise due to the recent 50 percent increase in interstate heavy transport.

Point 2. Our second concern has to do with the fact that the RTA proposed route for the proposed upgrades of the Pacific Highway run right through the catchment area for emigrant Creek. The emigrant Creek Down supplies water to the growing towns of Lismore and Ballina with a combined population of over 20,000 people. Patrol and loyal runoff on a regular basis will seriously compromise our water supplies. If there is an accident involving chemical or oil spillage, for example, this could simply destroy our water supply. For this reason alone, any changes to the existing Highway must be carried out taking it further away from the catchment area not fully within it.