

INQUIRY INTO PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADES

Organisation:

Name: Mr Ian McIntosh

Telephone:

Date Received: 11/08/2005

Subject:

Summary

06 JUL 2005

Submission for T2E Upgrade

To: MR IAN COHEN MLC

Date: 28/6/05

From: TOSH (IAN MCINTOSH)

The upgrade of the T2E Highway should commence immediately on the existing Pacific Highway corridor for the following reasons:

1. to improve road safety and to reduce deaths on this section of the road
2. to kick start the Ballina Bypass to the south and the Ewingsdale/St. Helena/Bangalow section to the north, both of which are ready to implement
3. the T2E section of highway from Knockrow to the Bangalow overpass is already zoned 9A for highway upgrade and some land has been acquired in the southern corridor. Consequently, there is no need for the investigative and consultative processes currently underway to continue thus saving the government millions of dollars
4. the feelings of anxiety, frustration, and insecurity being suffered by the people in the study area will stop and a sense of humanity will be restored to the processes rather than the dictatorial methods being currently employed
5. the equilibrium between amenity/ land values across the study area will be restored. People located on the highway should not benefit financially at the expense of other people who have paid a high financial price to locate their businesses and residences away from the highway
6. the recommendations of the impending legislation, outlined in the paper, Northern Rivers Farmland Protection Project, February 2005, should be adhered to, namely that, 'Public infrastructure is permitted on land mapped as State or Regionally significant **where no feasible alternative is available**. Councils or State agencies proposing public infrastructure on such land should select alternative sites where possible'. [p.29] The Newrybar flats are extremely valuable & rare peat soils and grow much better Macadamias, and other crops, than even the red soils of the plateau.
That site is available and it is the existing highway corridor.
7. Rous Water has indicated [Rous Water Council meeting, May 18, 2005] that the highway upgrade can take place on the existing highway corridor without compromising water quality provided proper engineering constructs are followed
8. constructing a highway through identified wetlands along the bottom of the Newrybar escarpment and then cutting up through the escarpment at Coopers Shoot will destroy
9. areas of high conservation value which have been identified by Byron Council in the documents, Biodiversity Strategy, Sept 2004 and Byron Flora and Fauna Study 1999.
Constructing a highway through these areas is a contradiction to one of the stated objectives of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW).
The objective in S5(a) is to encourage;
'the protection of the environment, including the protection and conservation of native animals and plants, including threatened species, populations and ecological communities, and their habitats'
10. putting the highway back on the highway will help restore flagging public confidence in government policies and processes and will save millions of dollars in consultancy fees

I would also like to add to these points:

- The Newrybar Basin has the highest annual rainfall in NSW and those of us who have lived here for any length of time have regularly seen much of this (ridiculous to even consider) new area under 1.2 – 1.5m of water. We get dumps of 100+mm of rain in, sometimes an hour and the runoff rates are extreme.
- Last night (8/6/05) at a local community meeting Shane Higgins of the RTA admitted that they had not liaised at all with the two local councils (Ballina and Byron) and the expanded area is

Putting the highway back on the highway has a high feasibility factor in terms of an early commencement. It requires your immediate attention.

Your most urgent acknowledgement and response to this submission would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely

(Signature)



PS. I THOUGHT MICHAEL COSTAS
RESPONSE TO YOUR QUESTION'S FROM
THE LOCAL COMMUNITY WAS
ARROGANT TO SAY THE LEAST.