

INQUIRY INTO PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADES

Organisation:

Name: Dr Ian Falson

Telephone:

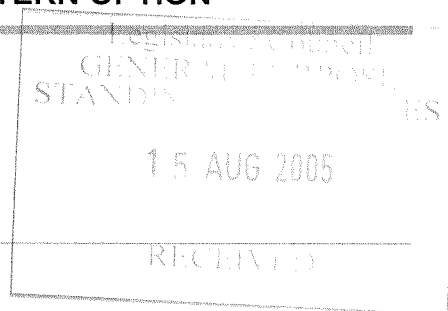
Date Received: 15/08/2005

Subject:

Summary

Glenda Baker - Fwd: PACIFIC HIGHWAY RESITING - EASTERN OPTION

From: Jenny Gardiner
To: Steven Reynolds
Date: 15/08/05 9:43:25
Subject: Fwd: PACIFIC HIGHWAY RESITING - EASTERN OPTION



Steven,

Hereunder is a submission from Dr Ian Falson re Pac Hwy.
 Jenny Gardiner

6:39:06 pm Sunday, 14 August 2005 >>>

14.08.2005

Dear Madam,

I am writing to express my sincere concern and strong objection to any RTA proposal that could resite the present Pacific Highway into the "Eastern Option Study area" i.e. the area below the North-South escarpment between Ballina, Lennox Head and Broken Head.

My family and I have lived on Picadilly Hill Road, Coopers Shoot for over 10 years. The valley below us slopes from the escarpment to the Broken Head Nature Reserve area and is within the RTA's eastern option study area. I know this area well and it is one of Byron Bay's most picturesque and generally admired rural valleys. It is an important corridor between remnant coastal and inland forests, with an abundance of wild life and over 100 species of birds. It is the only area in the shire where the endangered Superb Fruit Dove nests. It is also habitat for a number of rare and threatened species including koala, jabiru, black bittern, the wompoo and rose crowned pigeons, platypus and echidnea. There are nesting colonies of fruit bats. Every summer at dusk, my family and I watch as hundred of fruit bats fly west up the valley from Broken Head to settle in the Morton Bay figs on the ridge line.

This area is outstanding for its biodiversity and has been identified as containing 4 threatened flora species. Any further disturbance of this already restricted habitat by clearing for a motorway would exacerbate habitat fragmentation and increase threats to maintenance of the small populations in their core areas.

Further there is a principle of equity here. People who purchased properties on the existing highway understood the implications of their purchase - noise, pollution, land values, etc. It seems unfair that people who purchased property in the "eastern study area" in good faith years ago, should be penalized with a motorway that would involve 30,000 vehicles movements daily and consequent

massive blow to the quality of life of their families.

I strongly adhere to the "keep the highway on the highway" principle and look forward to your return correspondence addressing some of these issues.

Your sincerely,

Dr I. F. Falson