

INQUIRY INTO PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADES

Organisation:

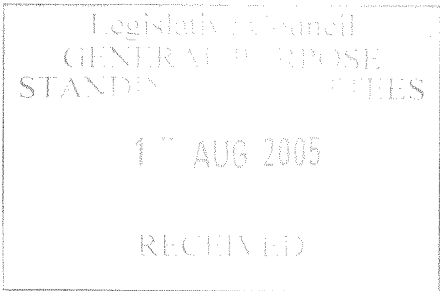
Name: Mr Paul Gannon

Telephone:

Date Received: 17/08/2005

Subject:

Summary



This is an addendum to my submission sent earlier this week. I neglected to present a significant environmental argument and ask a question with respect to how existing traffic from Lismore going north, will be catered for in an upgrade.

I wish to state very clearly that the planned upgrade to the Ewingsdale to Tintenbar section of the Pacific Highway has serious deficiencies with respect to unnecessary destruction to the environment and/ or commercial activity. There is at present in this section of the Pacific Highway, a road that already is much more than the 2 laned undivided road that still constitutes much of the existing Pacific Highway. Between Ewingsdale and Tintenbar there is a part of the road with 4 concrete lanes, excellent divide, and a major overpass (the Bangalow bypass). The overwhelming majority of the remaining section is at least 3 lanes. In other words it will not take much effort, and certainly no commercial or environmentally sensitive land, to make this road into a 4 lane divided road. On the other hand any upgrade of the Highway that deviates from the existing route will certainly cut into land that is agriculturally productive and/ or probably also environmentally sensitive. In addition any upgrade away from the existing highway will produce an area of road and its associated pollution (noise and air) that at present does not exist away from the existing road. Why even consider building a new road away from the existing road? What the environmentally sensitive region will end up with is TWO major roads running parallel within 3-5 kms of each other for 17-20kms. This is plainly a waste! It reinforces the need to keep the Highway upgrade on the existing Highway!!

I also failed to raise the following question. If an upgrade includes a tunnel at the northern end as strongly rumoured, and the new section will not cater for any exits or entries, where/ how does traffic coming north from Lismore, enter the Pacific Highway? Think about it! The constraints listed by the RTA for an upgrade will mean that the traffic coming north from Lismore will have no way to enter the pacific Highway unless they travel through Coorabell and Mullumbimby the on to the Highway! The other alternative is for them to head 15-20kms south to the Ballina by pass before they can then turn and travel north.

Paul Gannon