

**Submission
No 11**

INQUIRY INTO PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADES: COFFS HARBOUR

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Date Received: 3/11/2005

Subject:

Summary

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**SUBMISSION TO THE INQUIRY INTO PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADES:
COFFS HARBOUR**

PACIFIC HIGHWAY – NO MORE EXCUSES

The Student's Association represents the concerns of over 2000 students attending the Coffs Harbour Education Campus. Many of these students travel on the Pacific Highway daily to attend classes. Unfortunately, over the last few years, some of these students have been involved in serious accidents on the Pacific Highway. Parents of students have expressed their concerns, asking their children not to travel on the Pacific Highway, preferring to pay for airfares when they return home during holidays.

It is well recognised that the highway is inadequate for the volume of traffic and the solutions are well known.

“Undivided Roads - This is the number one hazard on our roads. It is responsible for the majority of fatalities and injuries. By dividing all our major roads and highways with safety barriers, the number of head-on collisions and resulting fatalities would fall to almost zero.”(NRMA http://www.mynrma.com.au/saferroads/save_Lives.asp)

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The Student's Association feels that both the state and federal governments have failed in their duty of care to these young people by not providing a safe, divided roadway for them to travel. The Association feels that the separation of carriageways as an interim measure should be put in place immediately. Arguments surrounding state and federal funding responsibility should be put aside so that these interim measures can be put in place immediately. Arguments about funding arrangements provide no consolation to the parents of a dead child!

Our young people deserve the opportunity to grow and develop in the best environment that our country can provide – this includes a safe, divided Pacific Highway. The students at Coffs Harbour do not want excuses - they want to BE SAFE!

Neville Neal

On behalf of the Southern Cross University

Coffs Harbour Student's Association