

INQUIRY INTO PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADES

Organisation:

Name: Mr & Mrs Paul & Lyn Johnstone

Telephone:

Date Received: 19/08/2005

Subject:

Summary

LYN & PAUL JOHNSTONE

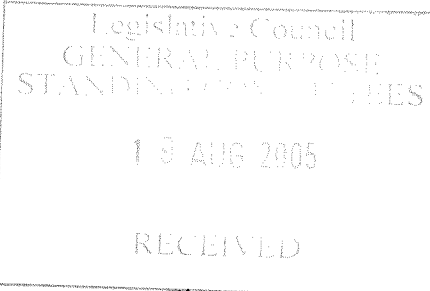
TO: Pacific Highway Upgrade Inquiry
General Purpose Standing Committee No.4

ATTENTION: Jennifer Gardiner

FAX: 9230 3408

NO. OF PAGES INCLUSIVE: 3

MESSAGE: As per phone message left on 19th August 2005. We will follow up this faxed submission with a postal submission immediately including photographs mentioned.



17th August 2005

Mr & Mrs P & L Johnstone

Pacific Highway Upgrade Inquiry
General Purpose Standing Committee No 4
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

We wish to make this submission on the proposed upgrade of the Pacific Highway in particular the section between Tintenbar to Ewingsdale on the far north coast of NSW

Firstly, we wish to voice our complaint on the decision to allow B Doubles to use the Pacific Highway. There are so many more trucks using the highway now and it becomes very intimidating when you are travelling in traffic at highway speeds with huge trucks surrounding you. At the moment you have convoys of large trucks on a mission between Sydney and Brisbane on the same road where holiday makers and other drivers take in the scenery. This creates a very dangerous situation being a risk within itself. It seems that if we are looking into the future needs of road transport it would be required to have two separate main roads between Sydney and Brisbane. One road to cater for the majority of truck transportation. This could be an upgrade of the New England route. This upgrade could also play a part in providing much needed employment for country regions. The other road could be a upgrade of the existing Pacific Highway. This would be for general traffic and a holiday scenic route with limited truck usage. The eastern seaboard is busy enough without these large trucks thundering up and down the Pacific Highway.

Secondly, we wish to make comment on the section of the proposed upgrade of the Pacific Highway between Tintenbar and Ewingsdale on the far north coast of NSW. We live in Old Byron Bay Road on the scenic escarpment of Newrybar overlooking grazing land, cane fields, green hills, coastal forest and the Pacific Ocean, probably one of the most scenic coastal plains on the north coast of NSW. Our property and our view over the coastal plain are now part of the expanded investigation zone for this new section of the Pacific Highway upgrade. To route the highway along this scenic coastal plain and having to rise to the top of the scenic escarpment to rejoin the Highway somewhere north of here would be against all modern environmental principles and issues. I need a development application to build a shed and the R.T.A. are thinking of scaring the scenic escarpment by building a four lane highway six lane wide.

The Ballina by pass has been approved. The northern end of the bypass connects with the existing highway at Ross' Lane Tintenbar – no problem. From Ross' Lane north we

wish to see the highway upgrade follow the existing highway corridor as much as possible. This route would have the least social impact when you take into consideration the existing impact of the highway. One would think that by using the existing highway corridor for the upgrade it would be the line of least resistance.

If the R.T.A. are looking at siting the highway on the coastal plain then it should be classified not as a highway upgrade but a new road and therefore should comply with more stringent environmental requirements than if just an upgrade.

It was our decision to purchase a property east of the existing highway. We have lived in the area for almost thirty years and knew where we wanted to live – and paid accordingly. We are approximately 2 kms east of the highway on the scenic escapement. Not in our wildest nightmares did we ever expect to be affected by a highway upgrade. We feel strongly that by changing the route of the highway upgrade to the coastal plain and not following the existing highway corridor would change the social and physical amenity of a unique rural area forever. The far north coast of NSW is a unique part of the world and cherished by locals and many that have visited the area. It is an Australian and has become a world icon. Lets plan its future correctly and not make short sited mistakes by creating a highway section that is too close to the eastern coastline and would create ribbon style development too close to the coast and restrict future planning and growth of the areas of Suffolk Park, Broken Head and Lennox Head, which is not in keeping with good planning.

Photographs enclosed shows you the views of the coastal plain on a clear day and the same view when the fog sets in making vision extremely limited. Not good for a main highway.

In closing we would like some form of acknowledgement that this submission has been received.

Regards



Mr & Mrs P & L Johnstone