

**Submission
No 71**

INQUIRY INTO PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADES

Organisation:

Name: Mr Maurice Spatt

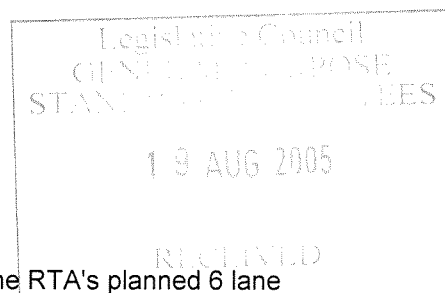
Telephone:

Date Received: 19/08/2005

Subject:

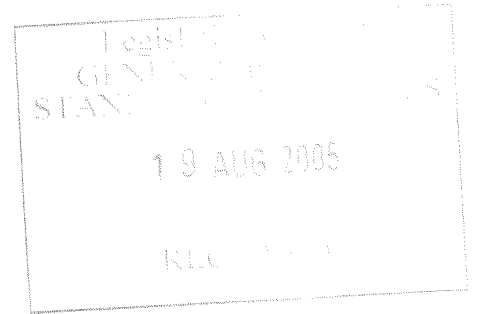
Summary

From:
To: <gpscno4@parliament.nsw.gov.au>
Date: Fri, Aug 19, 2005 10:20 am
Subject: Pacific Highway Submission



Dear Chair,
Please find attached a copy of my submission for your Enquiry.
The people in the Northern Rivers feel VERY PASSIONATE about the RTA's planned 6 lane Superhighway for our area & I strongly urge you to challenge the RTA's arrogance in this matter.
I am happy to discuss any of my comments with you. I have tried to be succinct.
Yours Sincerely,
Maurice Spatt.

SUBMISSION



Inquiry into Pacific Highway Upgrades

Tintenbar to Ewingsdale Upgrade.

Job #: 84046

Submitted by:

Maurice Spatt

1.

Plan of Action

1. **Immediately Gazette** to move all interstate trucking back to the New England Highway (NEH), off the Pacific Highway (PH).
 - The NEH is federally funded and this move would save NSW Taxpayer Dollars.
2. **Improve Policing**: Improve the regulation and policing of both the trucking industry and the companies receiving the freight (for example Coles and Woolworth's); make them set reasonable deadlines.
 - Stop trucks using bullying tactics and intimidating behaviour; make them more safety conscious with compulsory training and have "2 strikes and your out".
 - Use speed cameras, speed limits and enforce speed regulators on trucks; faulty regulators equals immediate loss of licence. GET TOUGH.
 - Introduce 1996 European Standards as a minimum to control the size and noise of trucks.
3. **Upgrade the Pacific Highway** on the existing corridor to a maximum of 2 lanes (divided highway) each way, with priority to known black spots and danger zones.
 - This is a matter of urgent public safety.
 - Put a tunnel under St Helena escarpment; this will eliminate the worst black spot.
 - A single property (Jarrett's Farm) should not jeopardise the safest solution for thousands of cars every day of the year.
4. **Develop Alternative Freight Routes**:
 - Build an inland rail freight network between Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane.
 - Develop shipping routes on the East coast of Australia between Melbourne and Brisbane.

Policy Issues

1. RTA and Government Relationship:

- The RTA is answerable to the State Government.
- The State Government is answerable to the voters who pay their salaries from State taxes.
- Make the RTA more transparent and accountable to the taxpayers.

2. Safety and Noise:

- Safety should not be compromised by the Trucking Industry and the Freight receivers (eg Coles and Woolworth's).
- Separate heavy vehicles (trucks) and cars by moving trucks back to the NEH as originally planned.

3. Equity Issue:

- Keep the PH within the existing corridor because there is a "REASONABLE EXPECTATION" when buying property near a Highway that it will be expanded in the future. Purchasers are forewarned by existing zoning laws.
- Conversely if you buy property away from a Highway to avoid noise and pollution, then there is NO reasonable expectation for a new Highway to be built in your vicinity to ruin the amenity of your property.

4. Destruction of Food Bowl:

- The Super Highway (6 lanes) proposed by the RTA is a threat to livelihoods and the amenity of this pristine part of the Northern region of NSW.
- This region is "significant farmland" compared to the more drought affected inland routes.

5. Endangering Human Life:

- Diesel particle emissions from truck engines are carcinogenic and cause respiratory problems.
- Therefore a superhighway of 6 lanes must be kept away from communities and state significant agricultural land.