

**Submission  
No 116**

## **INQUIRY INTO PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADES**

**Organisation:**

**Name:** Mr & Mrs Alan & Daphne Catchpoole

**Telephone:**

**Date Received:** 22/08/2005

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**Subject:**

**Summary**

**Glenda Baker - Fwd: SUBMISSION TO PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY General Purpose Standing Committee No 4.**

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**From:** Jenny Gardiner  
**To:** Steven Reynolds  
**Date:** 19/08/05 16:28:33  
**Subject:** Fwd: SUBMISSION TO PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY General Purpose Standing Committee No 4.

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6:08:33 pm Thursday, 18 August 2005 >>>

**SUBMISSION TO PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY  
General Purpose Standing Committee No 4.**

**RE: The Proposed Pacific Highway Upgrades T2E - Ewingsdale to Bangalow**

Submitted by

Alan David Catchpoole & Daphne Joyce Catchpoole

1. Scores of properties, homes, and farms, including our own, have been blighted by the announcement of the Pacific Highway T2E upgrade proposals and the scope of the study area, and will remain so, possibly for many years, until final decisions are announced. Even then, many property owners adversely affected will not be compensated for the damage they suffer. This is despite the fact that the RTA had, years ago, advised property owners of their intention to upgrade the Pacific Highway close to its present Saint Helena alignment, and property owners made decisions and made investments on the basis of these plans. These plans have now been abandoned.
2. Five years ago we built a home on Coopers Shoot for our retirement. This home represents a good part of our life savings. The RTA's announcement has already caused a significant loss in the value of our property, which we may never recover. Obviously many other members of the community have been similarly affected. Yet, when we built our retirement home, we understood that the Pacific Highway upgrade would be confined to the existing route at Saint Helena and would never come near our property.
3. The Community Liaison Group are in the process of examining nine alternative

upgrading proposals for this section of the highway, from which they will select three "preferred" options. They have been sworn to keep the details of the nine proposals secret from other members of the community, many of whom are possibly adversely affected by some or all of these nine alternatives. This is a farcical and undemocratic procedure. There is no reason why we or any members of the community should be prepared to accept the results of this process.

4. The members of the Community Liaison Group (CLG) have apparently been commissioned to select three "preferred" options from a total of nine, although, regardless of their conclusions, some CLG members may well be opposed to some or all of the options, including their "preferred" options. This process is flawed, and potentially invalid.

5. We have been unable to find any documentation of the methodology being used to select the "preferred" options. We suspect the methodology is not understood by most members of the community, including ourselves, and the conclusions reached are therefore open to question.

6. We are regular users of the Pacific Highway between Ewingsdale and Ballina. We are often alarmed at the unsafe road conditions caused by poor horizontal alignment and steep grades combined with high volumes of heavy goods vehicles using this road. So the decision to allow B-Double vehicles to use this section of the Highway, particularly those sections at Saint Helena and on the approaches to Ballina from the north, was irresponsible and incomprehensible. The proposal to investigate new upgrading options would mean that these very unsafe road conditions may continue to exist unchanged for many more years. During this period traffic volumes and goods vehicle volumes will certainly increase. So too, almost as surely, will accidents, injuries and deaths.

A D Catchpoole  
D J Catchpoole  
18th August 2005