

INQUIRY INTO PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADES

Organisation:

Name: Ms Geraldine Bigelow

Telephone:

Date Received: 19/07/2005

Subject:

Summary

GPSC4 GPSC4 - Pacific Highway upgrade

From:
To: <gpscno4@parliament.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 19/07/2005 8:58 AM
Subject: Pacific Highway upgrade

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19 JUL 2005

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Dear Jenny Gardiner,

I attended a meeting in Broadwater last night held by the community liaison group who informed us of an alternate route they had settled on submitting to the RTA called 'The Flood Free Route'. No-one in the community was consulted by this committee in the design of this route and they do not represent the values of the whole community in any way. In fact, when they were stepping out their desired route they lied to property owners about what they were doing, which will give you a little indication of how democratic the decision was! The route, surprisingly enough, is one that does not cut or traverse any of their own properties.

The proposed route crosses through the Broadwater National Park which is home to endangered species such as the Oxyllalen Pigmy Perch and protected species of Quoll's and Ground Parrots amongst others. I have not researched the extent of the wildlife habitats that the park nurtures, but Parks and Wildlife would be able to give you an in depth breakdown.

The National Park is a place of rare beauty and one of the only stretches of Coastline on the Northern Rivers that has not been afflicted by development. As such, it should be considered a National Resource (which is why it attained National Park status in the first place) as our beautiful coastline suffers under the hammer of developers at a frightening rate. This 'super highway' would be an aberration to the environment and to the entire village and surrounds of Broadwater.

Last night it was conceded that the Park was the jewel of everyone's back yard – that it was our greatest local resource. But while the villagers are forced to make selfish decisions that split their loyalty in the old fashioned nature of divide and conquer and individuals scramble to save their properties – the future of the Park remains in jeopardy. It is a terrible thing to see the fear and resentment that any proposal to destroy our local region by a super highway has on the good people who have built up this community.

A super Highway will for the most part be facilitating truck transport which leads to the obvious alternative – moving goods by rail. Our railway line is a precious transport route and all the shires of the Northern Rivers fought to keep it as a people mover and a goods mover. Please consider that the untold millions/billions of tax payers money be redirected towards an efficient rail service.

Our community stands together in saying NO to any proposed route by the RTA. Please do not allow this to be yet another democratic failing of a government that has long stopped listening to the people it is supposed to represent.

Yours sincerely,

Geraldine Bigelow

(DIRECTOR)
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