

INQUIRY INTO PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADES

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Date Received: 19/08/2005

Subject:

Summary

From:
To: <gpscno4@parliament.nsw.gov.au>
Date: Fri, Aug 19, 2005 5:01 pm
Subject: SUBMISSION FROM MACADAMIA CASTLE

19th August 2005

Please find attached my submission to Pacific Highway Upgrades Inquiry.
Please give acknowledgement of receipt to this email

thanks

Jerome Henson
Macadamia Castle
Knockrow
NSW

**SUBMISSION to NSW LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
General Purpose Standing Committee No 4**

**From MACADAMIA CASTLE
Knockrow, NSW 2479**

INQUIRY INTO PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADES

I am the proprietor of the Macadamia Castle which is a major tourist facility adjacent to the Pacific Highway at Knockrow, in a section of highway that is under investigation for the Tintenbar to Ewingsdale Upgrade. This facility is by far the largest single tourist destination in Ballina Shire with 350,000 visitors per year. The facility consists of a café, restaurant and souvenir shop selling a wide range of local produce and other items.

In the castle grounds there is a nature park consisting of several native fauna on display, childrens playground and a mini golf course. The castle has become a popular stopping off point for both tourists, long distance traffic and for locals in Ballina and Byron Shire. It has gained a reputation as an ideal location for children's birthday parties and provides great entertainment for the younger generation.. This business is also a significant source of employment where work is provided to some 30 persons directly and indirectly. We currently have plans before the Ballina Council to expand the existing facilities as well as introducing new ones.

As outlined above the business is well supported by locals and a high percentage of trade is derived from passing traffic. In this context the outcome of the upgrade investigations will have a very significant impact on this business, and consequently the RTA is obliged to seriously consider this in its analysis regarding the highway relocation. A highway relocated in close proximity without exit or entry arrangements would cause a near terminal impact – which would have the same impact as if the highway passed through the middle of the facility.

In selecting a route through the area that is relatively densely populated with very intensive horticultural operations, the RTA will encounter enormous difficulties in achieving its desired minimum disruption objectives without causing serious negative impacts for the local community .*In this regard it is our view that the guiding principle of route selection must be that option that causes the minimum damage and disruption to the majority of the local community and businesses – consistent with good road building and investment principles.*

*Jerome Hensen
Proprietor
Macadamia Castle*

19th August 2005