

**Submission  
No 26**

## **INQUIRY INTO PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADES: COFFS HARBOUR**

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**Date Received:** 8/11/2005

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**Subject:**

**Summary**

**S & G Radford**

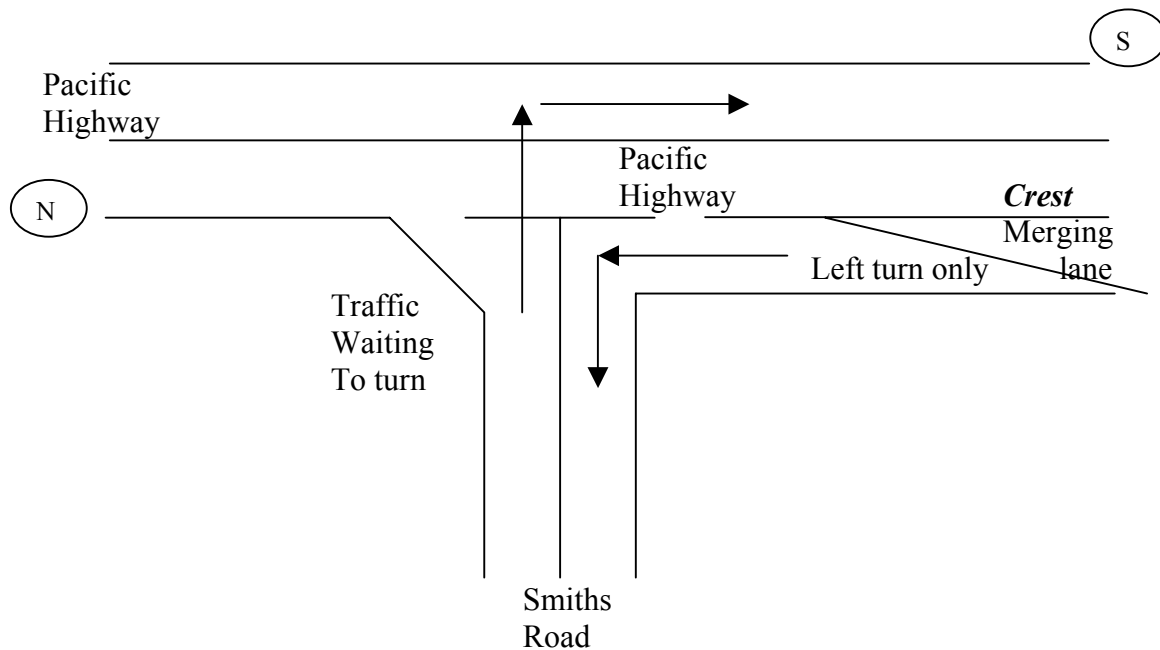
7 November, 2005

General Purpose Standing Committee No 4  
Inquiry into Pacific Highway Upgrades  
NSW Legislative Council  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

**Submission relating to Pacific Highway Upgrade  
Sapphire to Woolgoolga**

We wish to make the inquiry aware of the appalling state of the Pacific Highway and the lethal impact of mixing heavy vehicle traffic with local/tourist traffic.

We live in Hammond Road, Avocado Heights. Every day, we have to turn right from Smiths Road onto the Pacific Highway. The illustration below best explains the problem:



There is NO safe right turning lane onto the Pacific Highway from Smiths Road. We have to merge *immediately* with 100 km/h traffic [including B-doubles, and semi - trailers]. Note that traffic has to wait at the intersection across one lane of the Pacific Highway [ostensibly a left turn lane]. Note that the merging lane is on the crest of a hill.

Now, we want you to imagine sitting at the intersection - unable to see the 100 km/h traffic to your right until they come over the crest of the hill. Imagine your absolute **HORROR** when you see **TWO** semi-trailers or B-doubles to your right. Although they *should have merged* into one lane, they have not done so. You can't turn right across the path of the 100 km/h traffic on your left so you FERVENTLY PRAY that there is no car behind you so that you can REVERSE out of the way of these two monsters.

This has happened to us, and it has happened more than once.

Similarly, we have to turn right onto the Pacific Highway from Moonee Beach. There is a blind spot on the right and the road curves. You just cannot see all the traffic to your right until you have started to turn out of the intersection. We have had an accident at that intersection for that very reason.

Is an "upgrade" of the Pacific Highway going to fix the problem? Not likely! There will still be far too many intersections on the Pacific Highway. It is well documented that trucks routinely exceed the speed limit. It is also well documented that only 30% of the traffic on the highway is local/tourist traffic.

This slower traffic will have to merge with 110 km/h traffic at numerous intersections - a further recipe for disaster.

We have lost too many lives on the Pacific Highway in the last 10 years. It is time we had a proper Western By-Pass. We need to have a limited upgrade the Pacific Highway for *safety reasons* - but take away the deadly mix of heavy trucks and fast through traffic with the slower local/tourist traffic (especially with the increase in the ageing population in the region).

It is nothing short of gross negligence not to provide the Coffs Coast with a proper Western By-Pass.

Yours faithfully

S & G Radford