

INQUIRY INTO PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADES

Organisation:

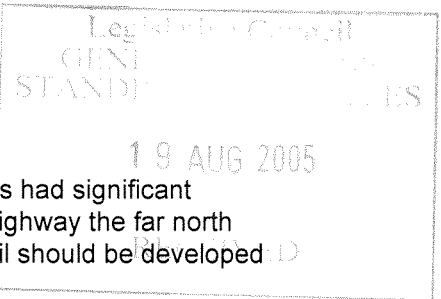
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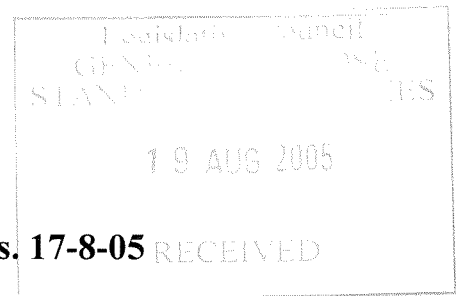
Subject:

Summary



Allowing B-double trucks on the pacific Highway was a mistake and has had significant negative impact on the coast of NSW. Even with a dual carriage way highway the far north coast will be significantly degraded. The New England Highway and rail should be developed and promoted through government policy.

To shift the pacific highway route from Tinitnbar to Ewignsdale to a more easterly route will approximately trebble the area of the far nother coast that suffers direct negative impact from the highway upgrade. Instead of the impact being relatively confined to those properties already adjacent to the highway, it will spoil all the eastern aspect of the escarpment, the entire Newrybar swamp area, and those residential areas to the east of the Newrybar swamp such as parts of Lennox Head.



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The Newrybar Swamp area is a mixture of protected wetlands (Ballina Wetlands) and high value agricultural land (currently mix of cane and macadamia nut farming but rapid growth of the nut farming sector). A major road development in the area would clearly be expected to have major impact on the hydrology of the area.

Residents on the current pacific highway route have always known that they had property adjoining the highway. They were aware of this when they purchased the property.

Others who deliberately (and at significantly more cost) purchased away from the highway would be unfairly burdened with the negative noise, smell and visual impact.

A major highway sited in the lowest land (Newreybar swamp) will be visible from all the surrounding lands, and it will not be possible to shield the noise pollution.

Conversely , the ridge top route is more easily contained with sound fences.

Overall it was a mistake to allow B-double trucks on the pacific highway. Most locals feels quite scared to drive on the highway now. They should be routed via the New England highway and as much freight as possible should be back on rail.