

Submission
No 39

INQUIRY INTO PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADES: COFFS HARBOUR

Organisation:

Name: Mr Doug Prendergast

Telephone:

Date Received: 9/11/2005

Subject:

Summary

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9/11/05 9B

Monday 7th November 2005

The Director,
General Purpose Standing Committee No.4
Parliament House,
Macquarie Street,
Sydney 2000

Re:- Inquiry into the proposed upgrade of the Pacific
Highway between Coffs Harbour and Woolgoolga

Dear Sir,

I have been driving to and from this area from Sydney on a regular basis over the last forty (40) years, finally retiring here in 2000. It is a known fact that enough people will seek their sea changes in this area that by the year 2030, the coast from Forster to Ballina will house 25% of the total population.

Knowing these volumes of people are due and will arrive should mean the local traffic and the through traffic should never be mixed, but the plans that have been disclosed indicating the Highway Upgrade will be a renewing of the existing road. If ever the opportunity existed to separate the two modes of traffic, now is the time !!!

From personal experience, the coastal villages and towns of Emerald, Sapphire and now Moonee have no difficulty exiting to the Highway turning south but to be heading north, an entire different scenario exists.

To turn right onto the Highway at each of these locations is to pull into the entirely inadequate marked waiting or holding area in the centre of the road and wait for a lull in the traffic stream to join vehicles heading in a northerly direction and then accelerate rapidly to meld in with that traffic flow.

This example is amplified at the Moonee turnoff as at this time (completion date December 2005) a major shopping centre is being constructed.

With the increased volumes of people and traffic expected, I fear calamity in the New Year as these local and through traffic modules will meet at 80 kms per hour at a poorly regulated intersection.

All the above is exacerbated by the pure volumes of heavy traffic (including the feared and dreaded B- doubles) being directed down the Pacific Highway since the Chinderah bypass was opened last year.

I know you are between a rock and a hard place but if there is anyway to save this unique and pristine area from becoming a race track, it is to be hoped it can be realized.

Woolgoolga's town motto is " the missing piece of paradise" and
They are not making any more of it.

Yours Sincerely, D. I. PRENDERGAST

