

## INQUIRY INTO PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADES

**Organisation:**

**Name:** The Hon David Campbell MP

**Position:** Minister for Regional Development

**Telephone:** 9228 3777

**Date Received:** 30/08/2005

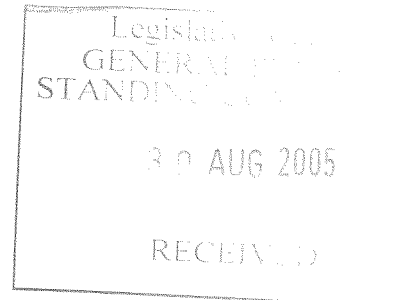
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**Subject:**

**Summary**



**David Campbell**  
Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for the Illawarra  
Minister for Small Business



M02397

The Hon Jenny Gardiner MLC  
Committee Chair  
General Purpose Standing Committee No. 4  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

  
Dear Ms Gardiner

Thank you for your recent letter requesting a submission from the Department of State and Regional Development to the General Purpose Standing Committee No. 4 for an inquiry into the impact of the Pacific Highway upgrades.

I would like to formally submit a response to your committee, from a regional development and small business perspective.

As you would be aware the economic development of the coastal region and hinterland of New South Wales is of particular interest to the NSW Government.

It is also recognised that a number of benefits are likely to flow to communities and businesses from the Pacific Highway upgrade.

I am advised that there are three main areas in which the upgrades will be of economic benefit to small business and regional development.

First, the upgrades will create employment opportunities for workers in the construction industry in the areas affected while road construction is taking place. These opportunities range from labouring and landscaping positions to earth moving, haulage, and the provision of materials for road base. In some instances, there may also be opportunities in project and contract management.

Second, over the long term, evidence suggests by-passed towns economically benefit from an increase in trade as local residents and visitors return to town centres due to improved amenity and safety resulting from reduced through-traffic, particularly road freight transport. This is consistent with RTA studies over the last decade which have dispelled the notion that highway by-passes have an adverse economic impact.

Third, the upgrades will improve transport links between commercial centres and thus trade and employment in the regions affected. This will have flow-on effects to local and regional economies.

If you require further information, please feel free to contact Mr Perce Butterworth, Executive Director, Policy and Resources Division, Department of State and Regional Development, on (02) 9228 3606.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Campbell', written in a cursive style.

**David Campbell**  
**Minister for Regional Development**  
**Minister for the Illawarra**  
**Minister for Small Business**

24 AUG 2005