

Submission  
No 58

## INQUIRY INTO PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADES: COFFS HARBOUR

**Organisation:**

**Name:** Mr E.J. Armstrong

**Telephone:**

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**Subject:**

**Summary**

E. J. Armstrong, B.E., F.I.E.Aust.,  
Chartered Professional Engineer, National Professional Engineers Register.

Thursday November 17<sup>th</sup> 2005

The Hon Jenny Gardiner MLC, NSW State Parliament House, Macquarie St, Sydney  
NSW 2000. FAX 02 9230 3416

Dear Ms Gardiner,

Andrew Fraser has asked that I make a submission to you with respect to the delays in the upgrade of the Pacific Highway from Newcastle to the Queensland border.

I should point out that I have grown up on the North Coast. My father started the first business in Glenreagh as a Blacksmith, Wheelwright and Farrier in 1911. We moved to Coffs Harbour in 1940 to allow we four children to attend High School and then Uni in Sydney. On leaving High School I worked for the local Surveyor for 4.5 years. He was ex DMR and responsible for the survey of the first Highway relocation from the Bellinger river to north of Coffs Harbour, but never built. After this job I went to Papua for a year and saved sufficient to do the 1<sup>st</sup> year at NSW Uni for my degree in Civil Engineering which I finished in 1957. Since moving back to Coffs in 1975, I have been active in following the highway debate and was a member of the Chamber of Commerce Committee of 1983 to 1985 that reported upon the possibilities and have been one of their CFG reps on the recent so called community consultation programme.

I attach two letters that I sent to Andrew Fraser and Luke Hartsuyker.

These submissions are to put before you evidence of the "spin" that NSW Government puts upon expenditure and to support Andrew's submission for more accountability as to how the funds from Federal Government are spent. I fully support his claims. My records show just how often State Governments do not come clean and clearly account in their media pronouncements that most of the funds come from Federal Government.

Let me give you an example from our local paper of yesterday. The Chairman, Judith Henderson, of the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Association, reported in the paper that the government has finally drafted the "Regulations" for the Native Vegetation Act of 2003. She states that Government has made available \$436 million over 4 years that will go direct to farmers for repair of rivers and restoration of over-cleared landscapes. I have followed this legislation closely, and am sure that in 2003 it was stated that State Government put up \$104 million and the balance came from a Federal Government Grant. The CMA's are part of DIPNR into which has been moved all those who worked in Water Resources and Soil Conservation. Those staff are to be "seconded" to the CMA's to assist and approve the landholders and rivercare proposals at the rate of 12 to 22 per CMA. They are to be paid for out of the \$436 million.

To my way of thinking this means that Federal Government money is used to pay those salaries. That is not my understanding of the intent of such Federal Government grants.

Yours sincerely

