

INQUIRY INTO PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADES

Organisation: Australian Business Limited
Name: Cr Sharon Cadwallader
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Telephone:
Date Received: 19/08/2005

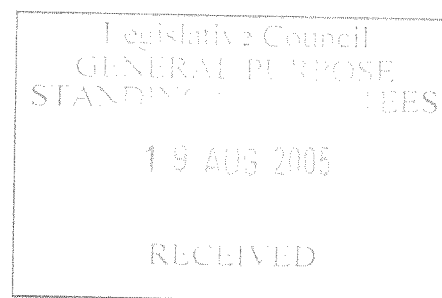
Subject:

Summary

From:
To: "Hon Jenny Gardiner MLC" <gpscno4@parliament.nsw.gov.au>
Date: Fri, Aug 19, 2005 5:03 pm
Subject: Inquiry into the Pacific Highway Upgrade

Please find attached submission.

Cr Sharon Cadwallader
Business Development Manager
Northern Rivers Region
Australian Business Limited



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From: Cr Sharon Cadwallader JPCMC / Australian Business Limited
Address
Telephone
Sent: Friday, 19 August 2005
To: The Hon Jenny Gardiner MLC
Subject: Inquiry into Pacific Highway Upgrades

Dear Madam

I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 19th July 2005 in which you invited Australian Business Limited to make a submission to the inquiry that has been convened in relation to the proposed Pacific Highway Upgrades.

Clearly, the current business climate in the Northern Rivers region is being seriously affected by the delay in construction of the Ballina and Alstonville Bypasses. Furthermore, the RTA's decision to expand the study area of the Tintenbar to Ewingsdale route is now impacting on future businesses.

It is apparent that people are reluctant to travel to the area because of the safety concerns they have about the Pacific Highway, in particular, the shared use with the heavy vehicle industry. I have heard stories of people making sure their wills are up to date before they leave Sydney to travel on the Pacific Highway, just in case they get killed on the way. Much carnage has occurred on the Northern Rivers Pacific Highway.

Because of the high unemployment rate and low disposable income families in the Northern Rivers, businesses struggle to survive. Most businesses rely on tourism dollars to keep them afloat. This new money feeding into the economy is vital to the sustainability of the region.

The business community on the Northern Rivers is made up of passionate, hardworking dedicated people. Many have moved from the cities and invested their life savings in business. It wrenches your gut to see these people lose, not just their businesses but their homes as well. And there has been many.

The highway upgrade needs to begin sooner rather than later on the retention of the approved Bypass route which has been determined following a thorough environmental impact assessment and community consultation process.

Should you require further information please feel free to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Cr Sharon Lesley Cadwallader