

Submission  
No 97

## INQUIRY INTO PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADES

**Organisation:**

**Name:** Mr & Mrs Terry & Kay Sandon

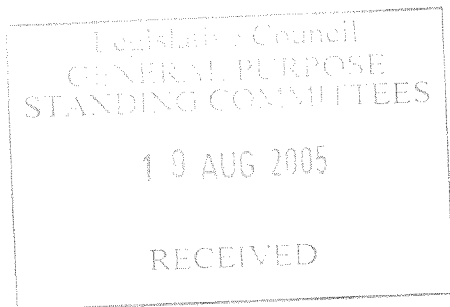
**Telephone:**

**Date Received:** 19/08/2005

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**Subject:**

**Summary**



15 August, 2005

Chairman  
General Purpose Standing Committee No. 4

### **Enquiry into Pacific Highway Upgrades**

Dear Sir/Madam,

We wish to submit our concerns in regard to the upgrading of the Pacific Highway between Ewingsdale and Tintenbar with particular regard to the following issues. .

**1. Reasons for a an existing highway upgrade only:**

While we support the need for road safety, we do not agree with the proposed expressway for the Ewingsdale to Tintenbar area.

The area we live in is a high quality rural area with State significant graded soils and at the same time, has high impacted tourist activity, due to its magnificent scenery and coastal views. Tourists need to travel at reasonable speeds and have access points to enjoy these views and this cannot be done while travelling at speeds of 110km throughout the area.

Heavy through freight such as 'B' Doubles using this expressway combined with tourist traffic, would only create problems and not improve road safety.

There are also many economic reasons, such as rising fuel costs, that place a question on the sustainability of road freight for the future.

**2. Impact on Rural Land:**

The high quality rural area between Tintenbar and Ewingsdale with its State significant soils, has many agricultural industries such as the growing of macadamias, coffee, passionfruit, stone fruit, bananas, sugarcane, and small crops and the cattle, dairy and plant nursery industries. To dissect this area would have a significant impact on these industries and the families who farm in this area, not to mention the commercial industries that support these activities.

### **3. Environmental Issues:**

The proposed routes for the highway have a huge impact on our water catchment areas, especially in the Newrybar community along Broken Head Road, which is settled around the Emmigrant Creek catchment area, which is the headwaters of Ballina Shire's water supply.

As residents of this area, we have many restrictions placed on development and are continually reminded of our responsibilities to protect and maintain the catchment area.

**Why then should the RTA be exempt from these restrictions?**

### **4. Community Impact:**

It should be noted that 47 families live along Broken Head Road at Newrybar. Our family has lived here for the past 28 years and most of the people we met on our arrival in the area are still here. Other families have moved and settled here hoping to enjoy the qualities that Newrybar has to offer and in a lot of cases have invested in the rural industries in the area.

The RTA has already divided the community at Newrybar with a Pacific Highway upgrade and this should not be allowed to happen again.

### **5. Summary:**

- The existing highway should be upgraded to a local tourist level only and the construction of an expressway or tollway should be further west in already notable areas such as the Summerland Way or the New England Highway which is already classified as our National Transport Route.
- The RTA should accept that, with regard to the Tweed to Brunswick Heads highway, it has failed in its attempt to construct a highway suitable for the needs of coastal communities. This section of the highway has created a major impact on communities both on the Gold Coast and Tweed-Byron areas in regard to the increased traffic activity, especially the number of 'B'Doubles.
- 'B' Doubles and heavy through traffic should be directed away from the area as they are creating increased pressure on road safety for our communities.
- The future of road freight is in doubt as high fuel costs, environmental issues and efficiencies are continually becoming an issue and need to be addressed effectively and permanently. There are far more suitable options, such as rail and shipping and disregarding their initial establishment costs, they are a more permanent and environmentally sound solution.

We must consider the future generations and the protection of our environment as there is no turning back.

Yours sincerely,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is 'Terry' and the signature on the right is 'Kay Sandon'. They are written in a cursive, flowing style.

**(Terry & Kay Sandon)**