

INQUIRY INTO PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADES: COFFS HARBOUR

Organisation:

Name: Mrs & Mr Shirley & Ken Medhurst

Telephone:

Date Received: 3/11/2005

Subject:

Summary

1 - 11 - 05.

The Director General Purpose
Standing Committee

Dear Sir

It has come to our attention in the local paper that the committee would like to hear from people who have had traumatic experiences on the Highway from Woolgoolga to Coffs Harbour. I wish to submit this experience to the committee, & also say we are both lucky to be alive to day to write this

We have been run of the road twice by B Ws, & then this happened on the morning of the 8th Feb. at 10-25am. We drive Toyota sierra. we were travelling into Coffs Harbour & outside the Big Banana we were in left hand lane going up the hill at 60 (in 60 zone) when a B Double who had been pushing us for some time decided to overtake clipped the back of the car (he was so close) which spun us around in front of him 3 times hitting us each time we landed sideways against his engine where he pushed

us up the road a further 40 mtrs. he then stopped & had the hide to say he didn't see us, but eye witnesses disputed that fact.

He wasn't breathalysed or charged with any driving offences. One witness wanted to tell the police what happened & was told they didn't want to listen. She was a councillor's wife from Sydney on holidays (Ryde) to be exact we were told by police you'll have to sort it out yourself! Our car was off the road for months we have no family to help us up here. My husband was told to drive the car to WRM a Depot it was undrivable steering was smashed. We are both in our 70's & he had been driving for a living all his life but he said these cowboys have got out of hand up here, with speed. He was in a state of shock for some days. We never heard an apology from the truck driver or ask were we alright.

I now hate living on this part of the coast as it's a nightmare to travel into Coffs Harbour along that road & of a night-time to listen to the noise of them on the highway. We now have our house up for sale, as we can see nothing has been done about the matter a lot of it is speed by these trucks.

Yours Sincerely,

Shirley & Ken Medhurst.