

Submission
No 29

INQUIRY INTO PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADES: COFFS HARBOUR

Organisation:

Name: Mrs & Mr Tracey & Hugh Heading

Telephone:

Date Received: 8/11/2005

Subject:

Summary

4/11/05.

Tracy Heading

To whom it may concern,
I am writing this letter regarding the
Pacific highway in particular the Bonville
bypass.

Our house is between 20 to 30 meters
off the highway at Bonville. I was the
first on the scene at the accident this
year that claimed the lives of four
Americans, the vision that confronted me
was that of some thing no one should
have to witness. Five bodies were
compressed into an area of approximately
two meters.

upon seeing this I then ran to phone
the police and woke my husband Hugh
who works night duty but had worked
many years in a hospital and a lot of
that time was spent doing postmortems
and morgue work. Our two year old
son was sleeping so I sent Hugh to
the accident and I stayed in our house
with our son. By the time Hugh got
there people were helping the children
off the bus, luckily no one on the bus
was seriously hurt, but the trauma
of seeing the bodies in the car as
they got off the bus will live with
them for the rest of their lives.

Hugh went to the car and by some

kind of miracle a young girl by the name of Delana Redmon was alive, Hugh climbed into the car as far as he could to talk to Delana as she was sobbing uncontrollably, she was jammed down behind the driver, Hugh also used himself as a shield so she did not have to see the lady in the passenger seat and also the body of her boyfriend who was across from her. Hugh applied pressure to the only visible wound that could be seen, we later found out the extent of her injuries which included her liver was cut in half, she had a hole in her aorta a broken pelvis, compound fracture to her arm plus of course a lot of superficial wounds the fact that she lived in its self was a miracle, Hugh stayed with her until he helped load her into the ambulance. This accident shook both of us up, as well as everyone that saw it Hugh, who thought that he seen just about everything was extremely shaken and had to have two days of work because when you are confronted with something like this you see it every time you blink, for me it is the smell of blood when ever I smell blood the vision of that accident comes into my mind.

A few weeks after that accident Hugh was sitting out on our front porch when

a loud bang then car lights going in all directions, he ran out to the highway, where he was confronted with a mini van wrapped around a telegraph pole and a B-double parked just over the bridge. This time the driver was lucky he was thrown from the vehicle before it hit the telegraph pole otherwise he would of increased the death toll of the 10km of road between Bonville and Pine creek.

People were with the driver of the car so Hugh walked up to the driver of the truck, who as you could imagine was a mess he thought he could of killed someone, Hugh talked to him and tried to calm him by letting him know it was not his fault and that the driver of the car was alive and was awake Hugh stayed with him until the police took over.

When Hugh got back home he was shaken as this accident happened within meters of the first, I then said to Hugh well thats two when is the third going to happen, well we didnt have to wait long within a week or two a young girl was killed only around 500m down the road. Every time we hear a siren our hearts drop. In the ten years we have lived here I can not count the amount of people who have died let alone the people who have been injured.

There is the saying of six degrees of separation. When it comes to the Pacific Highway I think it comes down to about two or three degrees of separation, I would like Mr Tripodi to walk down Harbour Drive and speak to every second or third person and I would bet that each person he spoke to would have some connection to an accident on the highway.

Mr Andrew Fraser, is extremely passionate about us, the people he represents and for that I applaud him.

When we bought our house in December 1995 the day we signed our contract Mr Paul Keating announced the ten billion dollar up grade of the Pacific Highway, we thought great we buy a house and now it is going to have a highway put through it, so we phoned the R.T.A. and they told us that they owned 95% of a corridor East of us and that was where the highway was going to be built, but when people were able to buy cheaper land in Bonville they built houses then they did not want the highway near by, so that cost money as new surveys had to be done in conclusion it was more economic to do the bypass. Then of course the Greeneyes got involved so another eco study had to be done which cost

more money and time. If they had done the bypass when they should of, it would of cost a lot less and people would still be alive.

With out sounding dramatic the longer this goes on more people will die.

I also wonder if this problem was in Mr Tripodi's backyard how long would it take him to get the job done.

The time for talking about it is over, now is the time to start building too much blood has been spilt don't let any more spill

Yours faithfully.

Tracy Heading

Hugh Heading

Tracy Heading + Hugh Heading

P.S.

We are willing to elaborate on this issue if required or desired.