

Submission
No 13

INQUIRY INTO PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADES: COFFS HARBOUR

Organisation:

Name: Mr & Mrs Rodney & Carol Betland

Telephone:

Date Received: 3/11/2005

Subject:

Summary

Rodney & Carol Betland

1 November 2005

The Director
General Purpose Standing Committee No 4
Legislative Council
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Re: Proposed Upgrades of the Pacific Highway between Coffs Harbour and Woolgoolga and at Bonville

Dear Sir/Madam

We find it totally unbelievable that this issue is even being debated in the twenty first century.

Our country should have had a decent national highway years ago. Our state should have a first-class motorway bypassing all cities, towns and urban areas. We are fed up with broken promises and misappropriation of tax payer's money by the various government departments involved. And we are fed up with the number of horrific accidents in our region and with the noise and pollution we are subjected to on a daily basis.

Along the section of highway between Coffs Harbour and Woolgoolga alone there are Shopping Centres, Tourist Attractions, Resorts, Motels and Caravan Parks, Schools, Beachside Towns and Villages and Housing Estates as well as many individual driveway accesses.

Our property at Korora has approx a 100mtr Pacific Highway boundary and two driveway accesses turning directly off/onto the highway. We don't have a turning lane and the speed limit in this area is 100 kms per hour.

Opal Cove Resort is located directly opposite our property and has approx. 135 hotel style rooms and 38 villas with 60 new units currently under construction. Imagine the amount of traffic turning on and off the highway just in this one spot alone! Then calculate the volume of daily traffic using the whole section of highway, (local residents, staff employed at the various locations, school buses, tourists and through traffic). A certain 'recipe for disaster' as we have already seen in the past and will unfortunately no doubt experience again and again until something is finally done. You just have to look at the number of trucks moving through (both semi trailers and b-doubles) often doing 10 to 20 kms in excess of the speed limit – no chance of stopping quickly in an emergency situation!

We are now frightened to travel on the highway, particularly at night with the many trucks. It's a nightmare when entering and exiting - you find yourself holding your breath, praying and hoping for the best. We've had a number of close calls which have left us shaken, horrified and very angry. People shouldn't have to live like this.

The current highway situation also has great effect on our personal life in terms of environmental issues (what are we breathing in our air?) and high noise levels (sleep deprivation). It's often embarrassing to have family and friends for barbeques, etc. due to traffic noise. We also hold grave concerns over our future in relation to possible devaluation of our property.

We live on a beautiful part of the east coast where the mountains meet the sea – our environment is precious and land is valuable – protect this unique area. Take immediate action to ensure the existing highway is safe, e.g. reduce the speed limit to at least 80 kms/hr or less but don't waste money that needs to go into a bypass.

People of the current government we need you to do what others in the past haven't been able to achieve - take a stand – take action – build our city a proper western bypass – enough lives have been taken, enough injuries have occurred and enough families have suffered.

We applaud Andrew Fraser MP, Member for Coffs Harbour, for taking a stand on this issue and support him whole heartedly – we need more genuine, caring people like him in government.

Yours sincerely

Rodney & Carol Betland