

Submission
No 51

INQUIRY INTO PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADES: COFFS HARBOUR

Organisation:

Name: Mr John Latham

Telephone:

Date Received: 9/11/2005

Subject:

Summary

Recd GPSC 9/11/05

JOHN LATHAM

9-11-05

DEAR SIR/MADAM.

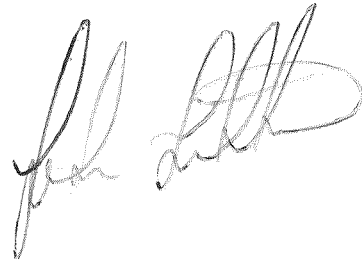
I WOULD LIKE TO FORWARD THIS SUBMISSION RE. THE PACIFIC HIGHWAY BETWEEN COFFS HARBOUR & WOOLGOOLGA.

I LIVE IN SUNSET ESTATE AT WOOLGOOLGA AND THE ONLY WAY TO TRAVEL ANYWHERE BY CAR IS OUT ONTO THE PACIFIC HIGHWAY. THERE ARE NO OTHER ROADS SERVICING THIS ESTATE. SINCE I HAVE LIVED HERE I HAVE HAD TO DRIVE INTO COFFS HARBOUR REGULARLY TO ATTEND TO BUSINESS / SHOPPING ETC. SINCE THE YELGUN - CHANDERAH BYPASS HAS OPENED THE AMOUNT OF HEAVY FREIGHT TRAFFIC HAS INCREASED GREATLY. ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS I HAVE BEEN 'TAIL-GATED' BY HEAVY TRUCKS TRYING TO INTIMIDATE ME TO GO FASTER, EVEN THOUGH I HAVE BEEN DRIVING AT THE SPEED LIMIT (100KPH), I KNEW THAT IF I HAD TO BRAKE SUDDENLY I WOULD PROBABLY BE RUN INTO FROM BEHIND AND POSSIBLY KILLED. I HAVE ALSO EXPERIENCED WHEN ON A TWO LANE SECTION (OVERTAKING LANE) WHEN COMING TO THE END AND HAVING TO MERGE INTO ONE LANE, EVEN WHEN INDICATING TO MERGE, TRUCKS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS HAVE FORCED ME TO PULL OVER TO AVOID A COLLISION WHILST THEY CONTINUE TO OVERTAKE. NO WONDER SO MANY DEATHS HAVE OCCURRED ON THIS SECTION OF THE HIGHWAY.

THERE ARE NO OTHER ROADS TO TRAVEL ON TO GET TO CORRS HARBOUR OR GRAFTON. I FEEL AS THOUGH I TAKE MY LIFE IN MY HANDS EVERY TIME I DRIVE THIS HIGHWAY. HAVING HEAVY VEHICLE FAST FREIGHT AND SLOWER LOCAL TRAFFIC, E.G. MOTHERS TAKING CHILDREN TO SCHOOL / SPORTS EVENTS, ON THE PACIFIC HIGHWAY THERE IS A RECIPE FOR MORE DISTASTERS.

THE ONLY COMMON SENSE ANSWER IS TO KEEP THIS SECTION OF THE HIGHWAY FOR LOCAL / TOURIST TRAFFIC AND BUILD A PROPER BY-PASS FOR HEAVY FREIGHT AND ALL THROUGH TRAFFIC. BLIND FREDDY CAN SEE THAT UNTIL THIS HAPPENS MANY MORE DEATHS ARE INEVITABLE.

YOURS SINCERELY

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'John Smith', written in dark ink.