

INQUIRY INTO PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADES

Organisation: Ballina Shire Council
Name: Mr John Christopherson
Position: General Manager
Telephone: 6686 4444
Date Received: 12/08/2005

Subject:

Summary



8 August 2005

The Hon. Jenny Gardiner MLC
Committee Chair
Legislative Council General
Purpose Standing Committee No. 4
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Madam

Re: Inquiry into Pacific Highway Upgrades

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 8 July 2005 in which you invited Council to make a submission to the Inquiry that has been convened in relation to the proposed Pacific Highway upgrades.

Council, at its Ordinary Meeting held on 28 July 2005 received and considered a report that contained a copy of your invitation and the Terms of Reference under which the Inquiry will operate.

Following its deliberations, the Council resolved that I write to you and provide you with a copy of each of the submissions that Council has made in recent times to the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) or its consultants concerning the two highway upgrade projects within Ballina Shire that are currently under investigation. These are the Woodburn to Ballina and Tintenbar to Ewingsdale projects.

You will note that Council's letters stop short of advocating any particular route options for the respective projects, but focus on the range of social, environmental and economic considerations that Council trusts the RTA will have regard for in determining the preferred routes from the range of feasible options.

You will of course be aware that the Ballina Bypass has been the subject of environmental impact assessment and was subsequently approved by the NSW Minister for Planning. Council understands that, to date, no funding commitment has been made toward construction of this project, though further more detailed investigations and some property acquisitions are proceeding.

Council and the broader Ballina Shire community are supportive of the Ballina Bypass and are eagerly awaiting its construction. Council was therefore extremely disappointed to learn that the approved Ballina Bypass route may potentially be impacted by the RTA's decision to expand the nominated study area for the Tintenbar to Ewingsdale upgrade investigations.

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in reply please quote
Pacific Highway Upgrade

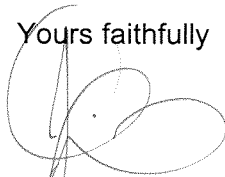
all communications should be addressed to the general manager

The effect of recently expanding the study area for that project is to substantially impinge on an area of land located between Ross Lane and Sandy Flat Road that is currently being investigated by Council including the preparation of a Structure Plan. It is anticipated that this land is likely to be capable of accommodating a significant urban community and has formed an integral component of Council's Urban Land Release Strategy since prior to 2000. This strategy has been endorsed by the NSW Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources under the provisions of Clause 38 of the North Coast Regional Environmental Plan 1988.

Having regard for the above, Council respectfully requests the Inquiry promote the retention of the approved Bypass route which has been determined following a rigorous environmental impact assessment and community engagement process. The further investigation of route options within the expanded study area for the Tintenbar to Ewingsdale highway upgrade will have the undesirable potential to jeopardise Council's detailed planning for a substantial urban population within the northern compartment of the Cumbalum Ridge.

Please feel free to contact Council's Executive Strategic Planner, Stephen Barnier if you require any clarification or elaboration of the above.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Christopherson', written over a circular stamp or seal.

John Christopherson
General Manager

Encl.