

## INQUIRY INTO PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADES

**Organisation:**

**Name:** Ms Veronica Gill & Mr Ian Blume

**Telephone:**

**Date Received:** 19/08/2005

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**Subject:**

**Summary**

16<sup>th</sup> August 2005

Ms. Veronica Gill and Mr Ian Blume

Attention Highway Inquiry:

We are writing you as concerned residents of the Wardell-Meerschaum Vale area in northern New South Wales. We are alarmed at RTA's haste to divert the existing highway in our area with very little study and very little thought into the impact and practicality of the diversion choices on the environment and bio diversity of this unique and beautiful area.

Out of a number of proposed diversions, several are through wonderful pristine rainforests and wetlands etc. that abounds with precious wildlife, made up of some endangered species, which makes this area so special.

We bought our properties for its quiet rural settings and lifestyles, and are horrified that our peaceful Valleys may be under threat of bulldozing and lost forever, not to mention pollution and traffic noise!

We were outraged that we were given only 3 weeks to write our submissions to the RTA after release of the very inadequate maps sent by the RTA for appraisal by us, the house and property owners!

We cannot seem to get an answer, and would like to know why an option was not an upgrading of the existing Pacific Highway, with diversions around towns? This existing highway carries B-doubles already and when widened will only vacate minimal residents in comparison to sending the highway west!

We would also ask you to consider an alternative to the Pacific Highway for the future, with the ever-increasing number and sizes of Interstate trucks. We believe they are the main reasons for the terrible accidents that are occurring on our inadequate Pacific Highway. An alternative being the New England Highway of which we were led to believe is the highway originally designed and dedicated for heavy vehicles!!

We bring to your attention of a local man Mr Ken Silva with the suggestion of a Road trailer (used in the USA), which will get 80% to 90% of Interstate trucks off our highways. After reading his article in our local newspaper we fully support his idea!

We hope commonsense will prevail, and appeal to you as an Inquiry to help us slow down the haste of the RTA and Minister for Roads decisions, and to get a **proper** and **thorough** study of the Woodburn to Wardell highway upgrades.

Yours truly,

Veronica Gill

Ian Blume



Rec'd  
19.8.05  
L.S.