

Submission
No 56

INQUIRY INTO PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADES

Organisation:

Name: Mrs Margaret Gannon

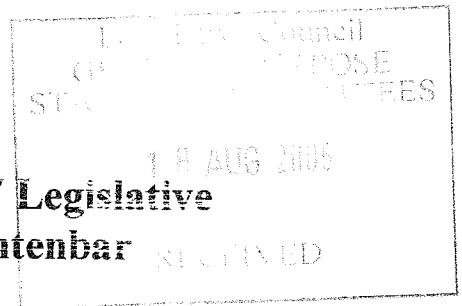
Telephone:

Date Received: 18/08/2005

Subject:

Summary

**Submission by Margaret Gannon to the NSW Legislative
Council Investigation of the Ewingsdale to Tintenbar
upgrade of the Pacific highway.**



I am a landowner who has been told by an RTA representative that my 100 acre farm is to be used as one of the eight proposed routes in the new study area from Ewingsdale to Tintenbar.

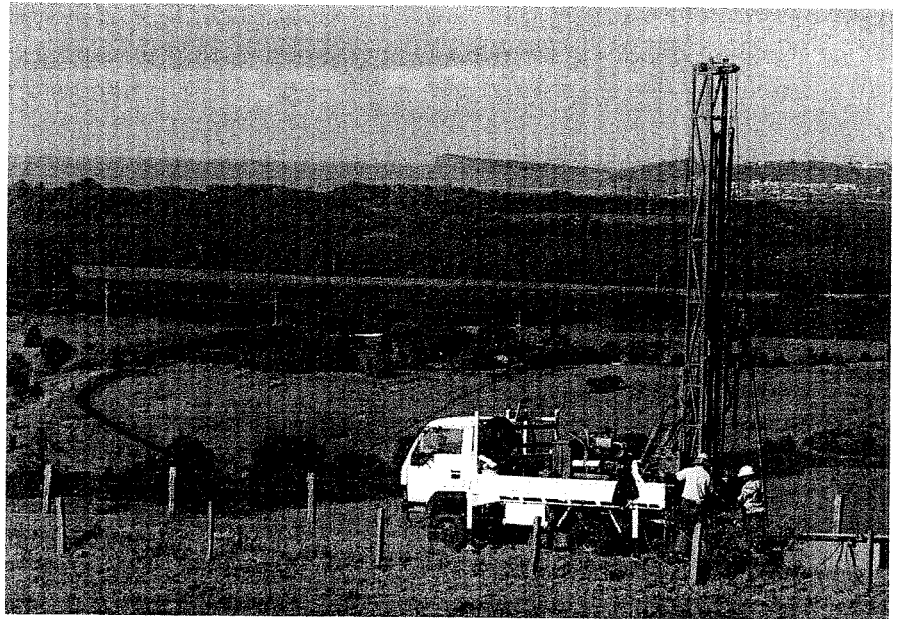
I am absolutely against the proposed highway upgrade being built outside the existing corridor not only because of the huge environmental destruction, the loss of prime agricultural land and the huge personal loss of a peaceful lifestyle but because when I purchased this land there was no intention of a highway ever to be constructed here. The highway was said to be expanded along the existing route. Landowners who were on the highway always had that expectation of expansion and their land was classified as such. How can the government now change the land classification and destroy our lifestyle, freedom and everything we have ever worked towards?

We spent 4 years searching for the perfect property, and then in 1992 we found it. It was a large undeveloped farm, 6 kilometres away from the Pacific Highway, with beautiful views of the ocean, and the mountains. Green rolling hills and a small creek running through it ... a dream come true. Since then we have worked hard mainly on weekends to plant rainforest trees, establish a coffee plantation, and a cattle farm. We have built a house, sheds and a huge dam (lake) with a second house on it where my parents live. They built the house while they were in their seventies and helped establish a beautiful rainforest around them. The dam has attracted many birds and is home to platypus, yabbies and thousands of black bass that we stocked. The proposed highway route goes right through the middle of the dam. My 28 year old disabled son also lives on the property and helps when he can. He has reforested an area along the creek. We spent four years building our dream house on a hill on top of the coastal escarpment. We love this property and this area and we chose it because it was so beautiful, peaceful, and because there were no planned impediments to its development. We paid a lot extra to live away from the existing highway. Noise and traffic are our hatred. If we had of known a future highway was to come through or near here we would never had spent all this time and money developing it. We would never have bought it in the first place. I can't believe the RTA can destroy our dream and the future dreams of our children. We have worked so hard to achieve this.

I am scared of the RTA and its plans to destroy this amazingly beautiful environment that surrounds us. I am scared also by the state government's lack of a whole transport plan for the North Coast. They seem to manage transport ad hoc. I want to see a whole plan for transport routes and consult with local Councils about their plan. If they continue with their proposal to develop a super highway from Sydney to Brisbane, they should consider that this will have a greater environmental impact in some areas than others. This is a beautiful and unique area, whilst others along the route are not so beautiful or unique. Therefore the RTA should consider following the existing highway route along this 17 kilometre route to preserve this unique environment. In other words some areas need to be environmentally protected and this is one of them. Highways are meant to be for the greater good. How can this be when individuals lose their freedom of choice, when the most desirable environments are potentially

going to be destroyed? When productive industries like agriculture and tourism are going to be destroyed and where people fight against one another in the community. I am an ordinary person whom, with my extended family, had a dream. That dream of working and living on the land and improving an already beautiful environment has now turned into a nightmare. We were once happy with hopes, dreams, and financial security with our coffee business, beef cattle, and the future income from 4 farm stay cabins at present being developed. We are now left with no dreams, no hope, just despair! Please insist that the state government look at a whole transport plan and insist that some areas need environmental protection. Also please recognize that people's livelihood, health, hopes, and dreams are affected enormously by this unexpected highway proposal.

Looking from my farm at the area that will be scarred by the proposed route through my property



My Farm my Dream!



Margaret Gannon
14 August 2005

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