

19th Nov 2015

RMS Written Submission to NSW Department of Planning and Environment

My name is Marian Tate, representing Rex and Marian Tate, with this written objection to the latest Albion Park Rail bypass-Environmental Impact Statement Overview of October 2015.

The Tate family farming properties are on the proposed motorway route along the Illawarra Highway and this road design proposal is due to have a major impact on the successful dairy farming business and major flooding implications.

Our family home is situated at 142 Calderwood Road on prime agricultural acreage on the western side of Macquarie Rivulet accessed by a farm road .8 of a kilometre from the farm entrance and adjoining The Meadows property at 140 Calderwood Road. The RMS proposed new motorway will greatly impact these properties.

RMS's (formally RTA) initial proposal of some 20 years ago was to acquire a minimal footprint of prime farming land for the proposed new motorway on the Illawarra Highway. Over that period of time the footprint has suddenly gone from a dual parallel carriageway of small acreage to a vastly widened dual roadway eating up an area of approx one third of the entire Meadow View farm together with adjoining rented farmland facing the roadway with embankments rising metres above the roadway fronting the Frazers Creek floodplain. The impact of flooding caused by the proposed embankments will in the future sweep floodwaters across the entire farm making the area on both sides of the Macquarie Rivulet into a vast dam.

Rising floodwaters from the Macquarie Rivulet will meet the Frazers Creek and Marshall Mount floodwaters to create further flooding on the western side of the Macquarie Rivulet impacting on the grounds of The Meadows properties of 140 and 142 Calderwood Road.

Due to the new roadway buildup, our greatest concern is that in times of heavy rainfall the surrounding farmland and our home we live in at 142 Calderwood Road sited on the west of the Macquarie Rivulet will be inundated with floodwaters.

Another point is the new roadway design is now proposed to border close to the eastern side of Macquarie Rivulet verging so much closer to our home. This was never envisaged in earlier road plans. This new roadway design bordering the riverbank will impact greatly on our quiet family home which is situated in a private and peaceful farming environment overlooking the Rivulet.

Directly opposite our home (over the Rivulet) is proposed the new built up embankment which will cater to a continuous stream of highway traffic emitting heavy vehicle noise pollution, braking noise, vehicle fumes and visual pollution. Our rural outlook will be impeded by a thundering highway.

The more recent addition of on and off ramps to the proposed motorway will increase the flow of more traffic adding to greater impact of visual and noise pollution to our home.

It has been this family's intention to work with the RMS from the outset. With the many meetings we have had with the planners of this motorway with representatives of RMS we have endeavoured to point out the severe impact on the greatest fertile farmland in this area and in our view to try to minimise the new motorway footprint for a better outcome. Our constant request to RMS is that they consider the destruction they will wrought on this fertile land and highly successful dairy business not only in the immediate future but in the long term to the next generation of this farming family. We are but one collective farming family voice representing generations of dairy farmers verses a powerful authority, the RMS.