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26<sup>th</sup> November 2015

Department of Planning & Environment NSW  
Roads and Maritime Services

**RE: ALBION PARK RAIL BYPASS SUBMISSION**

First let us congratulate the Government for allocating funds for this long awaited and much needed bypass.

Our biggest concern is that sufficient funds have not been allocated to take this project from “job dun” status to something we can all be proud of that meets the needs of the community, both current and into the future.

The RMS have done a great job planning this project, within their budget constraints, and communicating with the public but there is no getting around the major concerns.

1. On-Off ramps to Albion Park – only if Tripoli Way goes ahead
2. Flooding – only attempting to not make it worse
3. Wetlands damage can never be reversed – wetlands fill creates a dam, yet no money for bridge over wetlands

We don't accept that the construction of the ramps is tied in to the construction of the Tripoli Way Bypass. We believe that this is due to lack of budget funds and nothing more than an excuse by the RMS to avoid having to build these ramps when the Bypass is constructed. If the ramps are not built now, they will not be built.

We are also disappointed that Shellharbour City Council is expected to fund the Tripoli Way Bypass. Tripoli Way would become the Western Gateway between the Illawarra and the Highlands, it is a road of state importance and should be state funded.

The EIS talks about the current flooding problems in the Albion Park – Albion Park Rail area but the mandate is to not fix the problem just try to not make it any worse. When they put fill onto the wetlands, not only are they destroying something that can never be replaced, but the fill then becomes a dam, to worsen the effect of the flood waters.

The path chosen from Yallah south to the Illawarra Highway passes straight over several businesses at the roundabout, through the farm house then across the wetlands.

On a highway designed for traffic to travel at 100kph it seems odd that the RMS have created an "S" in the highway, rather than a more direct route. This path can only have an adverse effect on the traffic flow and their safety.

We see a simple solution is to straighten the highway and build a bridge over the wetlands, not demolish the buildings and destroy the wetlands. The State Government in our area has used this concept at Minnamurra and Gerringong with great success. We call on Government funding for this option.

This Bypass is long awaited and overdue, the Government and RMS are to be commended for what they are planning.

We are concerned that the Budget amount could end up being money wasted rather than well spent. Money needs to be found for the Albion Park On-Off ramps then onto Tripoli Way. The bridge over the wetlands may be more expensive but it was seen as best choice in other areas and it seems to be the best choice for our wetlands.

The budget needs to be reviewed.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P. Grebert', with a stylized, cursive script.

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