

## **Planning & Environment (NSW) (MP 07 0112 MOD 8)**

### **Warrell Creek to Urunga Upgrade (Modification 8)**

The purpose of this submission is to provide our comments on the Modification Request.

#### **Headlight Intrusion, Noise and Increased Pollution**

We are very concerned about the amount of headlight intrusion, noise and increased pollution for our residence based on the preferred option.

This option has an elevation of approximately 6 metres to go from the roundabout up to the bridge across the expressway. That means that the traffic will be under heavy acceleration, producing an increased amount of noise and air pollution. As the alignment of the bridge across the expressway points directly at our house this means that headlight intrusion will occur for all traffic using this ramp at night.

We ask that the vegetated mound currently planned to the West of the on ramp be extended so that it stops the headlight intrusion. Even with this in place it will take some years to establish the vegetation so we also ask that a fence be built on our boundary to reduce both the visual and the sound impact on our property.

#### **Earth Mounds, Vegetation**

The option report identifies that earth mounds with vegetation will be located in the vicinity of our residence. This still has not been finalised and further discussion is to occur. Our local access road is very close to the ramp and there is an area where the local access road and the on ramp are very close together (see attached map) leaving no room for a mound or vegetation. We ask that the local access road at the southern side of our residence be moved west to allow the mound to be extended as requested above.

#### **Power**

We also have a serious concern with the placement of the new high voltage transformer which has recently been installed.

The transformer is right on the top of the hill outside our neighbour's residence. This is effectively a lightning rod for any storm passing by. We have already had electrical equipment destroyed by lightning strike since the new transformer was installed and I cannot imagine what it was like for our neighbour when the strike occurred. I do not think that the physical aspects of the installation were considered as it would only take a minor change of the transformer location to take it off the top of the hill. If it was relocated slightly to the north the power line drops off the hill considerably. (Thus no longer being a lightning rod at the top of the hill.)

## **Street Lighting**

Current light levels at night are very low in our area (mostly based on moon cycles) and we are very concerned that the addition of street lighting to our area (in addition to the headlight intrusion mentioned above) will significantly increase the amount of ambient light at night (based on the information provided in the options report).

It is known that increased levels of light pollution are linked to health issues. Research continues but the excerpt below provides one significant example.

*The evidence that indoor artificial light at night influences human health is fairly strong, but how does this relate to light pollution? The work in this area has just begun, but two studies in Israel have yielded some intriguing findings. Stevens was part of a study team that used satellite photos to gauge the level of nighttime artificial light in 147 communities in Israel, then overlaid the photos with a map detailing the distribution of breast cancer cases. The results showed a statistically significant correlation between outdoor artificial light at night and breast cancer, even when controlling for population density, affluence, and air pollution. Women living in neighborhoods where it was bright enough to read a book outside at midnight had a 73% higher risk of developing breast cancer than those residing in areas with the least outdoor artificial lighting. However, lung cancer risk was not affected. The findings appeared in the January 2008 issue of Chronobiology International.*

The option report notes that light pollution will increase for nearby residents. For this reason we ask that (at a minimum) all nearby residents are provided with blinds of an appropriate standard (i.e. blackout) for all windows.

We also ask that any lighting installed is configured so that the light is directed onto the road where it is required but not dispersed any further than necessary. This would also serve to provide some benefit to wildlife in the area.

We would also ask that any lights chosen are not within the blue range, as these have been shown to be particularly detrimental to health.

### **Bins & Mailboxes**

When the ramp design is being finalised we request that a level area be identified to facilitate rubbish collection. We currently have an area by the side of the Old Coast road which allows us to safely locate 8 bins for collection. The new area will need to provide easy access for the rubbish truck.

In addition to the area required for the 8 bins, we will also need an area for 4 mailboxes.

### **Lane Access to Driveways**

We understand that the lane from Old Coast Road to our driveway will be surfaced as part of the ramp implementation.

We ask that the area being surfaced is identified with consideration for the few remaining mature trees that we have. The lane may need to be moved (very slightly) East to achieve this. There are a few trees close to our homes and we would like to keep them. There should be sufficient area available to enable this.

As the new access will be in a different direction we request that further discussion take place about our driveway design in order to achieve the best outcome, we have some concerns about the tentative driveway design currently shown on the plan.

### **Vibration and Noise during construction**

We have major concerns about the amount of vibration during construction and the potential damage to our residence. When the existing Old Coast Road was being repaired recently, we already had items vibrating off shelves and the repairs were on an area quite a bit further away from the house than where the construction of the ramps and access road will be. Since the construction will be extremely close to us how can we be assured that there will be no damage?

The current noise levels are quite high as the main cut for the road is being completed. As the distance of the new construction site is considerably closer we are concerned about the levels of construction noise that will occur. What mitigation measures can be implemented in the short term to reduce the impacts?