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The Director – Infrastructure Projects  
Department of Planning & Infrastructure  
GPO Box 39  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

**Objection to the proposed Princes Hwy Upgrade – Foxground and Berry By-Pass**

I hereby wish to object to the proposed plan to upgrade the Princes Hwy from Foxground to Berry. The proposal as it currently stands presents many issues to the detriment of my property and local environment, issues which I believe have not been adequately addressed within the EIS for this project.

I am a long term resident of Broughton Village, having lived on my farm since 1970. My family chose this land for its productive capacity, its serene amenity, its ample water supply and local community spirit. All of this is now at risk!

I wish the Department of Planning to carefully consider the points I raise and reject the proposal as it currently stands, as its potential impact is highly intrusive, unacceptable and non compliant in many areas.

My major concerns are as follows;

**Loss of Productive Agricultural Land** :- RMS are proposing to resume 10 acres of my prime paddock , the highest point of my land which affords good drainage in high rain periods. This paddock provides most of my fodder for winter and hosts a dam that provides water to my stock. The proposed highway will alter the natural landform and prevent water runoff to my dam. It will remove mature shelter trees and generally result in a significantly lower carrying capacity.

**Pollution of Creek Water**:- Broughton Creek provides me with my household and stock water. The EIS contains an error as it states “ There are no drinking water catchments in the project area. Groundwater has low use within the region because the area receives a relatively high rainfall and

Shoalhaven Water provides a reticulated water supply to Berry. North of Berry water users are more reliant on tank water and groundwater". This is certainly not the case. I pump directly from the creek and so do my neighbours.

We have previously told the RMS of the need to guarantee our continued supply of acceptable quality of water at the initial design stage of the project however, it seems they have disregarded our need.

**Impact of Noise:-** The EIS highlights that my house will be gravely affected by noise from the project both in the construction and operational phase and is outside the acceptable level of the RMS's own new road noise criteria policy.

The background noise study quoted in the EIS was taken at a location not consistent with the quiet amenity of my home. The location point of the study is currently far more affected by existing highway noise than that experienced at my home.

Further studies closer to my home should be undertaken as the current information does not give an accurate prediction.

I feel disadvantaged as rural property owner by being considered as single entity whereby the RMS propose to treat my home by architectural noise mitigation methods , because if all rural residencies in our locality were considered collectively, there may be a more suitable mitigation strategy. Ideally acoustic walls with appropriate treatment of road surfaces at the source would be a more appropriate mitigation measure.

I do not wish to live within a sealed box – I wish to continue living with open windows and fresh air.

The EIS contains a further error in its assessment of my property as it incorrectly identifies the most affected facade of my home to be the Eastern side, when in fact the northern facade will be the most adversely affected by the motorway.

**Impact on Natural Environment:-** Broughton creek which forms a boundary to my property is rich in all sorts of fresh water marine life: platypus, conga eels, water dragons and bass. I am concerned that the increased creek crossings immediately to the north of my property will adversely affect the quality of water within the creek and its habitat. I regularly see native animals such as sugar gliders, flying fox, wombats, kangaroos, possums, spotted quolls, snakes, lizards, echidnas and all manner of bird life and insects on my lands.

**Impact on scenic rural outlook:-** My land contributes to the Scenic Protection Zone of the local Council. Development on these lands should be sympathetic to the surrounding environment. The proposed multi-lane highway in no way respects or complies with this zoning intent. The path chosen scars this visual sensitive area.

My family chose to live in this area for the visual amenity, rural outlook – not to look at a multi lane highway – I could do this in the city.

**Changed Access to Property:-** Currently I enjoy direct access from the existing highway into my property. This access point will be removed under the proposed development.

As a consequence of the highway upgrade, the proposed entry point for my property will be via Austral Park Road, resulting in:-

- additional travel to my home
- additional travel times to town centres (Berry & Gerringong),
- the establishment of a new easement (ROW) burdening my property for access for my neighbours, the Seatons, of which I am not keen due to potential neighbour disputes.
- A changed postal address and need to relocate letterbox in an area remote from dwellings with no security and in a location no longer easily accessed by foot
- The need to inform all contacts of my new postal address and property entry details

Of major concern is the ability for emergency and utility service vehicles to access my property in the construction phase. Further, the change to the access point to my property may result in confusion and would delay emergency vehicle response times.

The Austral Park Road location currently is deemed to be part of the Berry postcode address. Does this mean that I will no longer be regarded as Broughton Village? If this is so, our local heritage is again being eroded and I strongly object. Our local community and Councils recently rallied together to ensure the Department of Lands corrected an oversight in locality naming so as to ensure the Broughton Village locality was maintained.

The proposal currently includes a turning circle at the end of Austral Park Road for the purpose of garbage vehicle movements. I object to this inclusion as it will greatly affect my security as I believe it will attract an undesirable element of the community who will consider it a great place for burnouts, dumping of cars and unwanted goods, not to mention being a place to gather away from onlookers. The security of my large farm storage shed immediately adjacent to this proposed turning circle will be compromised.

Also, there is no need to provide this turning circle under the guise of the need for garbage trucks to turn as we do not receive a garbage service and nor do I want one.

Please remove this turning circle in Austral park Road from any future proposal that may be considered.

It is proposed that Austral Park road and residents to the north of Broughton Village i.e. Foxground will utilise an interchange planned to be constructed in the Chitticks, Seaton and my front paddocks. Collectively my neighbours and I strongly object to the location of this interchange. It's positioning we have been told by RMS is due to it being the most cost effective location but we fail to understand how this interchange could not be moved further south, onto land already acquired by

RMS so that the impact on those residents wishing to remain is lessened. It is possible to build the interchange at a location further south, RMS engineers have communicated it possible however, would require the construction of fly over rather than a bridge. The interchange as currently proposed has multiple impacts and was only communicated to us in the later months of the highway upgrade planning.

Surely it is an objective to mitigate impact on residents wishing to remain on their land. Removing this interchange from its current planned location would save me and my neighbours many hectares of land and would have less impact on not only the productive capacity of our farms but also would lessen the visual impact, the intrusion of light and noise, the risk to our security and pollution from litter.

**Economic Impact:-** Should the proposal proceed the value of my property will be significantly reduced. I will lose the stock carrying capacity of at least 8 breeding cows, hay making capacity will also be significantly reduced which would result in loss of income together with the need for me to buy in feed.

I strongly object to the proposed Princes Highway upgrade – Foxground and Berry bypass in its current form. I do not believe the RMS has adequately addressed the concerns as I have listed above and I believe that a more appropriate route for the highway to travel would be adjacent to the Gerringong to Bomaderry rail road.

Yours faithfully,

Ashley McLaren