

16 Dec 2012

Re: Princes Highway upgrade.

Relevant area - Bridges #2 and #3 across Broughton Creek in Broughton Village, and the new section of Highway to be constructed on earthen mounding between Bridges #2 and #3.

Dear Princes Highway Upgrade Review Team,

I am writing on behalf of myself and my neighbours Rob Boughton, Wayne Brodie and Tim Francis. Our properties are in the 'bowl' to the East of where Bridges #2 & #3 will be built across Broughton Creek, in Broughton Village.

Our location has four outstanding issues which require a better design than is currently proposed by the RMS.

We acknowledge the necessity for an improved Highway, however we are very concerned that the new highway design will have an unreasonable impact on our daily lives through noise, visual & privacy impacts and flooding issues. We have had constant input with the RMS about these issues and it is unfortunate they are still unresolved.

1) - Noise Modelling & Expansion Joints.

Noise Modelling.

There is a reverberation effect in the 'bowl' formed by the mountains around our locale. Noise levels associated with the current highway from the 'opposite direction' to the highway (from the East) are often louder than noise levels emanated from the actual direction of the highway (West of our homes). It is often possible to clearly hear the characteristics of conversations between people over one kilometre away.

The noise modelling undertaken by the RMS does not show that this reverberation effect has been taken into account, it simply shows a graphic representation of expected noise levels as measured directly from source to various points at increasing distance. This noise modelling information is completely inadequate, and in our location it is outright misleading.

Expansion Joints.

We note information provided by the RMS office in Berry informing us Bridge #2 will have two expansion joints and Bridge #3 will have three. Both bridges are approximately 25 meters long. We will be impacted by noise from both bridges. Noise from Bridge #3 will potentially have a greater impact on us as noise from the expansion joints will travel a great distance as it will emanate from an elevated position and reverberate in the 'bowl' at our locale as described above.

*** At a minimum both bridges, (Bridge #2 and Bridge #3), must be constructed with 2 expansion joints only.**

*** Noise mitigation at the expansion joints must be provided so that we are not worse off from noise pollution than before the highway is built.**

2) - Bridge #3 Gradient.

The gradient of Bridge #3 and the road over the hill ahead (South) should be reassessed. We believe the gradient is too steep which will result in greater noise pollution, less road safety & efficiency and does not provide the optimal road design which you currently have the opportunity to build. Making a deeper cut will lower Bridge #3 and also provide additional material (if needed) for the purpose of mounding to screen the highway (regarding point 3 below).

*** The height of Bridge #3 should be lowered with a deeper cut to decrease the road gradient on this hill. Thus levelling out the new upgraded highway road as much as possible.**

3) - Road profile, Screening and Mounding.

The issue of screening is of great concern to myself and all of my neighbours. We understand a new section of highway will be constructed on an earth mound or embankment approximately 5 metres high on the land between Bridges #2 and #3. This will introduce an enormous visual feature to our landscape in an area where we currently have pristine rural views. The Princes Highway is currently obscured by hills and forestation in the area between where Bridges #2 & #3, and the highway between them, will be constructed.

Without earth mounding to the embankment shoulder we will be greatly impacted by the visual and privacy impact of vehicles, road noise and light pollution.

It is requested by the four property owners in the 'bowl' at this locale that the road level between Bridges #2 and #3 be slightly lowered on the Western side of the mound and have higher mounding on the Eastern side of the mound. Essentially we are requesting a similar road profile to the one designed for North St. in Berry. This will shield the properties in our area from the introduction of noise and visual/privacy impacts, and help retain the current rural amenity of the area.

We have calculated a minimal drop in the embankment height alone would provide enough material to mound the Eastern shoulder. This simple materials neutral design feature should have been a part of the road design in this area from the very beginning. Please do not approve the current road design without addressing this extremely important issue to us.

*** The road profile of the embankment between Bridges #2 and #3 in Broughton Village must feature earth mounding along its Eastern shoulder for the purpose of Noise, Privacy and Visual Screening.**

*** Extensive tree planting along the Eastern side of the embankment must be provided to retain as much as possible the current forested vista in this area. In time this will return the visual amenity of this locale to its pre-Highway upgrade amenity to some degree.**

4) - Causeway Flood Events.

There is a causeway (which is the responsibility of Kiama Council) on our access road, flooding of the causeway has resulted in the loss of lives in the past. We are extremely concerned about the impact the new highway will have on flooding at the causeway. We believe flood events will be exacerbated by a damming effect created by the embankment the new highway will be built on between Bridges #2 and #3, and potential funnelling effects where water flow rates may be increased.

*** Please provide a commitment to return to the project to restore our causeway access if the computer modelling is wrong and flooding events are increased or worsened after the highway is built.**

We believe these small changes, that should be materials neutral, will have a significantly improved outcome for our future lives living in proximity to the new highway and retain the rural amenity of this important locale for future generations.

Thank you for your interest in our request for an improved Highway upgrade design.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

57a Princes Highway, Broughton Village. – (No postal mail please).

Neighboring Properties: 500C/D/E Princes Highway, Broughton Village.