

Dr. and Mrs. Lawrence T. Scott

[REDACTED]
Reno, NV 89512 USA

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Director – Transport Assessments
Department of Planning
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

Submission Coffs Harbour Bypass EIS (SSI_7666)

I have visited family and friends in Coffs Harbour a couple of times now; it's one of my favorite places, and I was appalled to learn that they were planning to build highway that would've destroyed the beautiful green backdrop which sets Coffs Harbour apart from much of the rest of the world because of this is the place where the Great Dividing Range touches the Coast.

The green backdrop Mother Nature provided for Coffs Harbour is an outstanding drawcard and I was pleased to read that finally the community has a plan that includes three tunnels a lower gradeline and a quiet asphalt surface.

I wrote about noise issues in my 2018 submission. The noise reverberating day and night off the natural amphitheater formed by that beautiful backdrop, will change the lives of those living there in a negative way, and destroy the visitor experience for tourists like me, forever.

I still have concerns about noise because the modelled baseline measurements in some areas seem way higher than the actual traffic noise I've experienced in the area. Specifically around where the Coramba Interchange is planned and the quiet areas around West Coffs, such as the northern end of Pearce Drive, and Lakes Estate. I believe an independent audit should be undertaken.

Whilst speaking of noise I'm flabbergasted the RMS has chosen to completely ignore the Roselands Estate as if it doesn't even exist. Because of its location adjacent to the Coffs Bypass and the Coramba Rd Interchange it'll be one of the worst effected housing estates along the entire route. Yet the RMS has chosen not to give it a mention at all in the EIS. I want certainty that the residents of Roselands Estate are given the opportunity to make claim for post construction noise treatments

I'm very disappointed that we only have another concept design and that when the final detailed design is finally complete that we may not have a form the final design chance to comment on it. Because even now we can't have any confidence in the final design and what might be constructed so I want to see a Detailed Design and a Construct Only Contract to have some confidence in what' we'll finally see built..

How is it possible to put out an EIS and not deal with the serious issue of dangerous goods particularly in such a dense location as the existing highway through our town? At the tunnel in Ewingsdale at the Byron Bay turn off, the signs say that only 1 and 2:1 class of dangerous goods cannot go through.

A dangerous goods risk assessment must have been completed for RMS to make any sort of decision in Coffs Harbour. Why has this important information been kept from everyone in Coffs Harbour (including Council)?

Coffs Harbour residents want the same rules as applies to the Ewingsdale tunnel, applied to our tunnels, i.e. that all dangerous goods except Class 1 and Class 2.1 can use the Coffs Harbour Bypass..

I am disappointed there was no attempt to address community (and Council) concerns of all three Interchanges especially the Coramba Road Interchange where I want to see a donut design instead. So the infrastructure can be place further away out of the backyards of some families in Roselands Estate.

I am concerned about dangerous goods vehicles possibly still driving through Coffs Harbour and I want all dangerous goods vehicles (unless they are making a delivery into Coffs Harbour) to use the bypass.

I am concerned about only having a concept design again and what kind of bypass will eventually be constructed and I want to see a Detailed Design and a Construct Only Contract so I can have some confidence in what's constructed.

I don't see a Submissions Report which is disappointing because I made a submission to the RMS 2018 Preferred Concept Design and I can only assume that it wasn't ever considered. Much of what I said back then is still relevant and I want my previous submission to be properly considered now.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular box redacting the signature of the person.

I do not make political donations