



Coffs Harbour & District Banana Growers Association

PO Box 436, Coffs Harbour NSW 2450



Monday 21st October 2019

Director – Transport Assessments
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001
Reference: SSI_7666 Coffs Harbour Bypass



Submission to the RMS EIS Pacific Highway bypass of Coffs Harbour 17/10/2019

The banana growers are generally happy with the changes incorporated in this version of the bypass plan. We note that more farms are being affected to service the local access and that these were predictable impacts of choosing a route through the banana growing areas.

The key feature of this plan is to use three tunnels. We welcome this change as this will create the minimum disturbance to the local topography. In turn we believe that tunnels will reduce the impact on temperature and wind on the remaining areas. We sincerely hope that this feature is delivered.

Panama Disease

The RMS have had numerous conversation to growers about Panama Risk. We restate that Panama disease is a real threat to industry, construction of the highway presents a vector to spread latent infected soil. We believe that the protocols for quarantine and ongoing management should be modelled on the QDPI response to Panama Race 4 in FNQ.

Access and Remnant Land

Most of the concerns to growers now are to do with access and functionality. This usually comes at another growers expense, so I believe the BGA must keep out of that issue. The BGA's role is simply to notify growers of the issue and their responsibility to ensure they address these issues for themselves.

The BGA would recommend that growers to acquire adjoining remnant property to maintain the viability of their farm. It would disastrous to have a non farm minded individuals to become their neighbour.

Regards

Wally Gately
President
Coffs Harbour & District Banana
Growers Association

