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Submission Coffs Harbour Bypass EIS (SSI_7666)

The backdrop to Coffs Harbour is one of my favorite vistas, and I was appalled when after recently purchasing our home 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.

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 myself, 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 why has the RMS apparently chosen to ignore the Roselands Estate? Which 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 bypass route, absolutely no different to the Korora area? Seriously the RMS has chosen to not give even mention Roselands at all in the EIS. Can you please make it a Condition of Approval that the residents of Roselands Estate are given proper consideration for both pre and post construction noise remediation treatment?

I'm also amazed that after all this time we only have another concept design and not yet a Detailed Final Design. We don't want to take any chances here, because when communities take their eye off the ball, bad things happen, so in this instance I'd like to have the opportunity for more consultation when the Detailed Design is complete so we can check everything is OK. 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 release an EIS and not deal properly with the serious issue of Dangerous Goods travelling through a busy regional city location made up of retail, business and residential buildings? And why are we suddenly hearing that no dangerous goods will travel via the Bypass? There is a precedent set just up the road, at the tunnel near Ewingsdale (St Helena) at Byron Bay, the signs there say, only Dangerous Goods Class 1 and Class 2.1 are not permitted through the tunnel.

A dangerous goods risk assessment must have been completed for RMS to make any sort of decision in Coffs Harbour. I'm quite sure that if we were able to read it it'd say the risk of Dangerous Goods travelling through three short tunnels would be minuscule when compared to the risk of leaving them on a road through the middle of Coffs! Question is why has this important information been kept from everyone in Coffs Harbour?

Coffs Harbour residents want at least the same rules that apply to the St Helena tunnel, applied to our tunnels, i.e. so that only Dangerous Goods Class 1 and Class 2.1 are prohibited from using the Coffs Harbour Bypass tunnels and all other Dangerous Goods can.

I am disappointed there was no attempt to address community concerns about all three Interchanges especially the Coramba Road Interchange where I want to see a donut design instead of the current dog-bone style, so the infrastructure can be placed further away from the backyards of some of those families in Roselands Estate.

I don't see a Submissions Report which is concerning and disappointing because I made a submission to the RMS 2018 Preferred Concept Design and I can only assume that because of those important items mentioned above that those 800+ submissions weren't ever considered? Much of what I said back then is still relevant and I want my previous submission to be properly considered now please.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Yours sincerely

Nicholas Ellem

Declaration: I have made no (or insert which applies) political donations in the past two years.