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Major Projects Assessments  
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Scanning Room

### Keep the highway on the highway!

Thankyou for the opportunity to comment on the Pacific Highway upgrade. My submission is related to the area between Glenugie and Maclean.

I am currently studying Environmental Science at Southern Cross University and as part of my studies have undertaken some social community education at our local monthly market in Yamba.

For some time now awareness has been raised in regard to the Coastal Emu – with information on its range, its threats and how the public and local residents can play a part in ensuring its protection.

People are astounded to hear that this is the last stronghold of the Coastal Emu in NSW. This is the only viable breeding group left. It contains approximately 100 individuals with **breeding pairs being only a fraction of this total**. It is my belief that this is due to the minimal development in the area and the absence of any major roads.

One of the main points we discuss is preservation of emu habitat. As little as twenty years ago the habitat of the Eastern Coastal Emu although rapidly contracting, still extended from Port Stephens in the south to Tweed Heads in the north. Today, only 15% of that habitat remains and is situated here in the Clarence Valley.

Many people have happily signed a petition calling on the State Government **"to act with all other levels of government and government agencies to ensue the future protection and viability of the NSW Coastal Emu, especially by preserving habitat"**. To date 518 signatures have been collected and a copy of this petition is attached for your records.

This proposal will see the Pacific Highway upgrade bisect the coastal emu's home and foraging range. Motor vehicles are one of the highest causes of death of the coastal emu. The proposed underpasses and overpasses are all unproven and I believe any fragmentation of the final population of Emus, or their habitat, will result in the total extinction of the Eastern Coastal Emu.

**The New South Wales north coast bioregion population of Emu, is nominated for listing as an endangered population under Part 2 of Schedule 1 on the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995.**

A large number of other threatened fauna as well as significant flora species and protected ecological communities will be adversely affected if the proposed route goes ahead as it passes through one of the most ecologically diverse and relatively intact forested areas of anywhere in NSW.

At this time of great biodiversity loss in the world it is criminal to allow such a major impact when there is a viable alternative. Many of these species are protected under State and Federal legislation and there are many other species that inhabit this area that are not yet listed as threatened that also need to be considered.

**NSW-listed threatened fauna which will be adversely affected are:**

Rufous Bettong, Powerful Owl, Yellow-bellied Glider, Grey-crowned Babbler, Diamond Firetail, Black-chinned Honeyeater, Brown Treecreeper and Squirrel Glider.

**Federally-listed flora and fauna likely to be adversely affected are:**

Square-fruited Ironbark, Quassia sp. 'Moonee Creek', *Lindsaea incisa*, *Grevillea quadricauda*, Spotted-tailed Quoll, Koala, New Holland Mouse, Australasian Bittern, Bush Stone-curlew, Green and Golden Bell Frog, Grey-headed Flying-fox, Eastern Osprey, Regent Honeyeater, Glossy Ibis, Swift Parrot, Australian Painted Snipe, Latham's Snipe, Marsh Sandpiper, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Pacific Golden Plover, Magpie Goose, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Cattle Egret, Eastern Great Egret, White-throated Needletail, Fork-tailed Swift, Rainbow Bee-eater, Rufous Fantail, Black-faced Monarch, Spectacled Monarch, Three-toed Snake-toothed Skink.

The like for like set-up measures are unacceptable. Vegetation communities such as the Lowland Rainforest have already been decimated since European settlement with an estimated 300ha left.

**Where will you find "like for like" areas to protect which are not already protected???**

In my opinion the environmental costs are too great for very little human gain. The protection of compensatory habitat elsewhere WILL NOT assist these habitats and species.

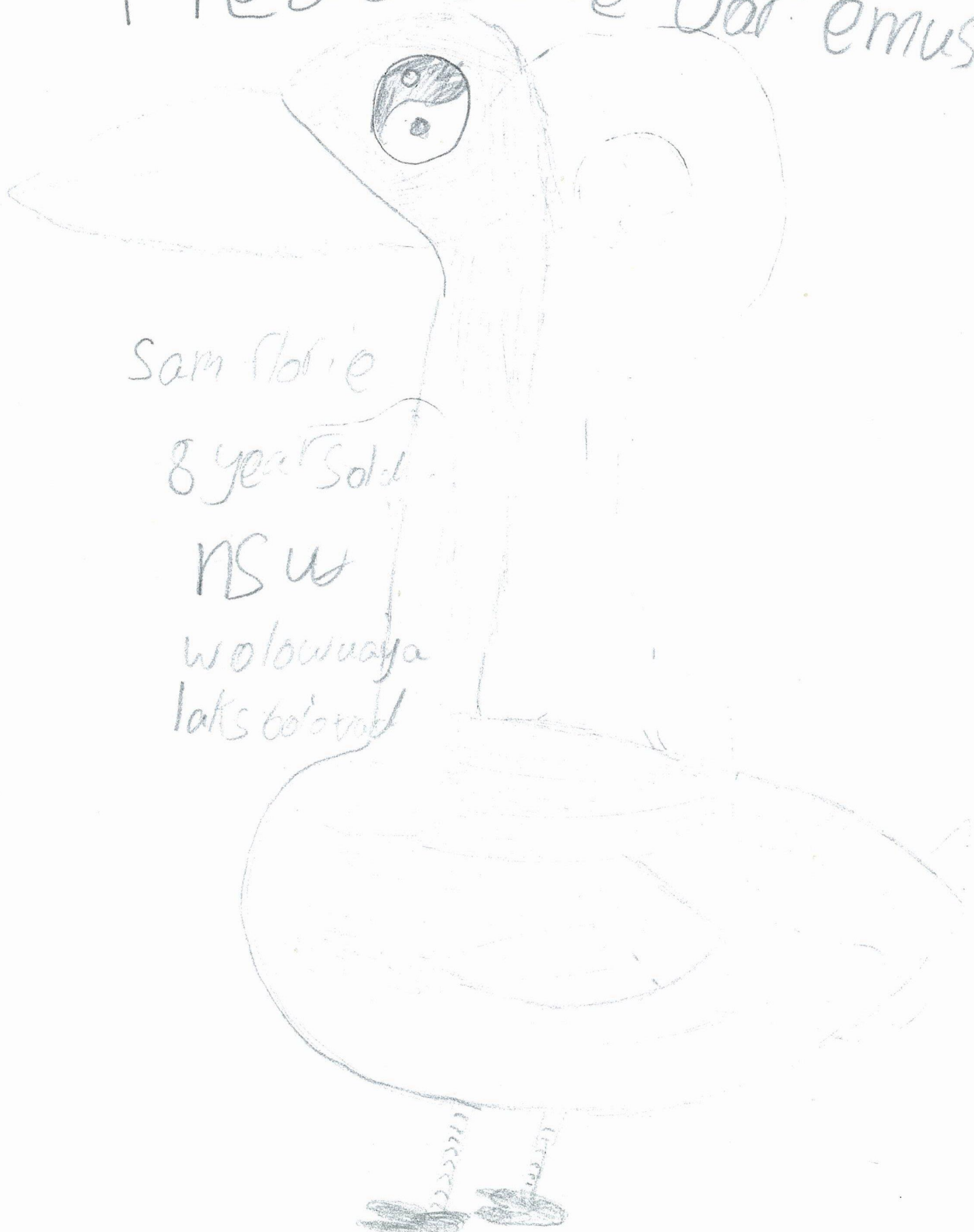
I therefore call on you to reject the preferred route throughout the Clarence Valley and to adopt the orange option which is a much less damaging option for the Valley's ecosystems.

**Keep the highway on the highway!!!**

Regards

Ros Woodward

Please Save our emus



Sam Florie

8 year old

NSW

wolowaya  
laks to'ovod