

Attention:

Director Infrastructure Projects

John & Colleen Moloney

3158 Pacific Highway

Tyndale, Via Maclean

NSW, 2463

Submission: Woolgoolga to Ballina Pacific Highway Upgrade – Section 4 Tyndale to Maclean

Application Number: SSI-4963

In completing this submission it needs to be understood that we believe the alignment of the proposed highway upgrade will have a severe impact on the farming properties along the route currently proposed, in particular the Tyndale to Maclean section but also including other sections along the route. Options for the highway that would have it situated further to the east would have avoided the impact on residents and prime farming land. Other options for the highway would have had less impact on local farming industries and based on other published options would have been cheaper, with less impact on residential areas.

This option along with the shifting of the Tyndale interchange from its original position will also have a severe impact on our property. This is a property that has been passed on from generation to generation and has been development as a cane farm over many years. Sections of this property are now going to be lost as part of the road reserve and other sections will be divided by the highway. This land is prime agricultural land and can never be replaced.

In considering the impact of the current proposal a number of concerns need to be addressed.

Drainage is a major concern for us as this can have a severe impact on the viability of our farming venture. The mitigation drainage system currently in place was developed in the 1960's to enable the production of sugar cane and other agriculture, draining areas that would have otherwise remained wet. It is essential that these systems be replaced with something that is equivalent to what is currently in place. Prior to this the local drainage system which includes a levee bank system for the Shark Creek Basin was built in the late 1940's early 1950's, this system provided protection from small flood events and local flash flooding.

A key component of this system is the levee wall from Shark Creek at lot 74 which snakes across ending on the southern boundary of lot 16. This levee bank was constructed in the early 1950's to prevent the flooding of areas to the north of it as a result of local heavy rain. It also allows the final run off of water from major flooding events to get away faster and thus is essential to maintain the viability of farming in this area. The area to the south of this levee bank is drained into Shark Creek thru a drain running along the southern side of this levee structure. This needs to be incorporated into the highway design as it is essential that the integrity of this levee/drainage system be maintained as failure to do so will have a severe impact on agriculture lands in the area. Any proposed culvert/drainage used to drain lot 15 will need to be constructed to allow the release of water to the southern side of this levee system to maintain the integrity of that system as it is functioning currently and has been for the sixty odd years.

Other reason for our objection to this proposal involve the severing of our property, this will result in higher running costs as we need to travel up to an extra eight kilometre round trip in order to access sections of our property that you could previously through a stone to. As you would be well aware any additional running costs have a significant impact on your bottom line. This will not only result in extra travel time but also wear and tear on machinery.

A major concern for us is also the direct impact of the highway on our home; it will be situated only a short distance from both the highway and the exit ramps that will be constructed at our front door. This will have a severe impact in relation to noise, both during and after construction, visual and our general lifestyle as access to our home will also be affected.

We hope that the aspects outlined in our submission are considered as part of the planning process for the highway upgrade as they are vital to enable us to continue farming this area once the highway is constructed.

Yours Sincerely,

John and Colleen Moloney