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Application Number: ssi4963

Application: Woolgoolga to Ballina Pacific Highway Upgrade

As a resident of the Mid North Coast, NSW, Australia, I object to current planning arrangements for the upgrade of The Pacific Highway between Woolgoolga and Ballina. In the past two years, I have no political donations or gifts to disclose.

Project specific local area agenda has been foreshadowed in current project outlines in contrasts to commencement of works, and staging complement/timeframes. The need further exists for emphasis on environmental management within the paradigm of socio-economic and socio-cultural change.

Infrastructure works that will inevitably link the north and south east coasts of NSW will, in future, allow urbanized transportation operations under the control of major companies. This economic trend will have an adverse impact on socio-economic patterns within local communities, with an increased risk of overuse of regional resources. Furthermore, environmental management concerns remain overlooked with increased carbon dioxide and fossil fuel emissions entering the atmosphere from a greater volume of traffic.

Misuse by individuals or land mismanagement, of areas classified for environmental protection were not adequately addressed, in particular; view to public access, penalties for infringements, licensing or zoning regulation controls.

Public policy, with access to information and local area agenda rely on a strategic partnership between residents, business, local authority and other persons of interest. Ongoing consultative and monitoring processes, collaborated by an existing multi-agency taskforce will identify and investigate local area agendas. These agendas operate within specific to organizational guidelines and regulations with the forming of multi-agency agreements.

Establishing dialogue for a focus on sustainable development addressing short and long term impacts of the upgrade to the Pacific Highway is viable to all interests groups.

Socio-economic impacts

Local business enterprises will face socio-economic change and the possibility of decline, with change associated with economic and environmental impacts.

Community education and sustainable development initiatives for water, land and marine management govern local economic stability and growth, including quality of living. Endorsed financial intergovernmental commitment could play an important role in future demand for trade, local produce, and business quality assurance.

Project authorities have projected an improved rate of local employment from initial project staging. However, outsourcing to urban areas commenced during primary staging of the project, with local employment perspectives for full-time job placements being controlled by employment agencies and contractors located in the city of Sydney.

Other observable impacts on local resources and culture include:

- Waste management
- Water supply and restrictions
- Resource demand management
- Tourism and seasonal demand
- Traffic flow / Transportation operations and authority
- Carbon dioxide levels and fossil fuel emissions

Environmental impacts

Local area Action Plan implementation with multi agency agreements specific to disaster management include; the reporting of hazard reduction activities, maintaining fire access roads, disaster preparedness, maintaining communication systems and emergency management procedures.

Environmental management efforts to monitor floodplains and natural cycles require a stronger commitment to participation and resources.

Socio-cultural influences such as Native Title Claims and conservation management measures including accountability for environmental protection, Designated Vehicle Free Areas, and the critical measure of protection of key habitat areas for Australian species threatened by extinction.

Environmental management problems also include:

- soil and dune erosion; with the threat of landslide
- frequenting severe weather
- man made hazards like environmental pollution
- disturbances of solar radiation cycles
- water cycle depletion and degradation
- climate/ocean temperature change
- air quality change/pollution
- and technological disasters

Local organizations engage community participation to recover and rejuvenate ecological communities facing the aforementioned problems.

Other experts like social and physical scientists have sound consultative advice to refocus the impacts of development.

Proposed measures to combat planning shortfalls within the Highway upgrade include:

- increased penalties for misuse of protected areas
- more stringent zoning and licensing controls
- reduced fragmentation of green corridors
- Continued monitoring and consultative programs
- Strategies to reduce ocean temperature rise
- Carbon dioxide level monitoring and environmental management

Recognition of areas of Indigenous cultural significance is deemed significant criteria in restoring cultural heritage, environmental management and protection to local areas. Without community consultation and regulatory monitoring, environmental impact assessment and ongoing land management strategies would fail to meet public policy standards. Working strategic partnerships and agreements give access to an alternate range of community resources. Accountability and implementation of sustainable development technology is the foundation for environmental reconciliation.

