

Anurago Reichelt

Dear Sir/Madam,

Submission on Woolgoolga to Ballina Pacific Highway Upgrade

I have serious concerns about the proposed preferred route through the Clarence Valley from Glenugie to Maclean. It involves the destruction of large areas of natural vegetation, cuts across wetlands and places a barrier through the habitat of the endangered population of the Coastal Emus. With a greatly reduced population of about 100+ birds any disturbance to their habitat should be avoided. The proposed bridges and other methods to address this issue are all unproven, and all that monitoring will do is document a further decline in the population.

Furthermore in excess of 80 threatened species of flora and fauna are to be impacted including the state listed Black-necked Stork, Brolga, Australasian Bittern, Eastern Osprey, Square-tailed Kite, Spotted Harrier, Little Eagle, Bush Stone-curlew, Glossy Black-Cockatoo, Masked Owl, Eastern Grass Owl, Powerful Owl, Black-chinned Honeyeater, Grey-crowned Babbler, Diamond Firetail and more, and the federally listed Rainbow Bee-eater, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Latham's Snipe, Australian Painted Snipe, Fork-tailed Swift and White-throated Needletail, as well as numerous mammals, reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates and flora species.

I therefore call on the determining authorities **to reject the preferred route through the Clarence Valley and to adopt the orange option**, which is a much less damaging option for the Valley's ecosystems.

The primary reason for not duplicating the existing route seems to be the cost of building bridges over flood plain. On the other hand the environmental costs of clearing over 948 hectares of vegetation including 337 hectares of Endangered Ecological Communities (EECs) including the Nationally listed Lowland Subtropical Rainforest cannot be measured in money nor replaced by money – that is why they are protected. The cumulative impact on these EECs is unacceptable.

The preferred option does not give any positive change to the Clarence Valley community, as it is **not at all** a practical route for local traffic. A duplication of the existing highway would on the other hand be a great improvement for the local community and not sideline the Clarence Valley residents and businesses.

Regards

Anurago Reichelt

*13 Morelia Way
Woombah, NSW 2069*

email: anurago1@westnet.com.au