



PCU041712

Major Projects Assessments,
Department of Planning and Infrastructure,
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Feb 15, 2013

**Re: PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
STATEMENT - WOOLGOOLGA TO BALLINA**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to provide the following comments in response to calls for submissions on the Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) Woolgoolga to Ballina Pacific Highway Upgrade Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

I am extremely concerned and alarmed to learn that a new road project may cause irreversible harm to high conservation areas and endangered species.

My concerns echo those of the coalition of Landcare and birding groups and relate to the proposal to construct 48km of new highway through Glenugie to Maclean.

The proposed route passes through some of the most ecologically diverse and relatively intact forested areas anywhere in NSW. I understand one of the main reasons for the high biodiversity in the area is the absence of any major road through the area to date.

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 are unacceptable, because the rich biodiversity of these areas cannot be replaced – the main reason for their protection in the first place.

While there will be immediate short term costs of modifying road proposals, the long-term costs to this and future generations, from the loss of this environment are incalculable.

Like a coalition of concerned organisations I would respectfully ask that the Department of Planning instruct the RMS to modify the route to avoid areas of high conservation value that are critical to the continued survival of the endangered Coastal Emu population and other threatened species.

I thank you for your consideration – and look forward to your response,

Yours Sincerely

Ray Moynihan
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