

What do we, the people of Howlong, want?

We want NO heavy transport vehicles travelling east or west along Riverina Highway/ Hawkins Street between Holbeach Street and Sturt Street.

To evidence this, of recent times, is when the Cleanaway Group wished to site a Compost Facility in Howlong close to town. The residents strongly objected to two items –

- The location of the facility; and
- The heavy vehicle numbers that this facility would bring into Howlong via the main thoroughfare – Riverina Hwy/ Hawkins Street.

The residents were correct as the Government finding was the facility location and the roads were not a best or even good fit. No one in Howlong objects to development that will assist in securing the future of the town and the safety of its residents.

It is too easy to secure and present statistical evidence from the past to try to support a current argument. But where are the forecasts and projections in the current argument to state that none of these heavy vehicles will not be involved in one or more fatal accidents involving residents, children, visitors, aged persons, or anyone? Just ask the families of the four police killed in that recent highway accident!

And in that situation there were police flashing lights and vehicles located in the emergency lane. And still a heavy vehicle with illuminated height and distance visibility ran down and killed four persons on the side of the road.

That's why it is referred to as an accident – it is not a foreseeable incident. But it happens.

Instead of exacerbating the problem we now have, by allowing increased heavy traffic that may fit within the current rules and guidelines – CHANGE these rules and guidelines to more closely fit the needs and requirements for the future and safety of small rural/ regional towns like Howlong.

Some time ago an open day in Howlong was instigated by the Developer to show plans and answer questions of the proposed development.

The two persons representing the developer- Peter Clinnick and Andrew McKimmie, who incidentally both live many miles east of Howlong and will in no way be affected by the increased noise and traffic, argued that it would be good for the town.

They went on to say that as the highway is 100 km/h, they expected to have speed restriction to 80km/h along a stretch of road fronting the access road to the quarry, and extra width be given to this stretch. None of this appears in their assessment as the rules do not ask for it.

I asked if they would be installing a wheel wash for vehicles entering the Highway to eliminate soil/ gravel being carried onto the Highway creating a hazard. This practice is common to most construction sites, or sites where this situation may occur. They said they would look into it. Does not rate a mention.

Because no alternative route/ by-pass was considered in the Cleanaway deal is not a precedent for lack of consideration now. Look what happened to the Cleanaway deal!

We could even consider a temporary bypass by utilizing the Kywong-Howlong Road and Drew Lane back to Sturt Street; there is also a by-pass road (Jindera Road) that would take vehicles into Albury and the Hume Highway to all points north and south.

While the temporary was being utilized I'm sure the Engineers at Planning Industry & Environment could develop a permanent by-pass that would be acceptable to all, and keep heavy vehicles off Riverina Hwy/ Hawkins Street.



Kevin L. Donovan
114 Hume Street
Howlong. NSW. 2643
Mob: 0434 366 900
eMail: donovankd40@gmail.com