

21st October 2019

Director, Transport Assessments

Department of Planning

G P O Box 39

Sydney NSW 2001

Submission: Coffs Harbour Bypass EIS (SSI_7666)

As a local concerned community member who has resided in Coffs Harbour for the past eleven years, I was appalled when they were planning to build a highway that would have destroyed the beautiful green backdrop, which sets Coffs Harbour apart from the rest of the country because of the Great Dividing Range that touches the coast.

The green backdrop Mother Nature provides for Coffs Harbour attributed to my decision to relocate from Sydney to Coffs Harbour.

With the recent release of the EIS it is pleasing to see that there are three (3) tunnels instead of 2018 mention of cuttings, which would have destroyed Coffs beautiful location. Tunnels are certainly the preferred option for the Coffs Harbour Bypass.

It is disappointing that there is only another concept design and that when the final detailed design is finally complete that there may not be an opportunity to comment on the final design. With this in mind it is imperative that there is a '**construct only contract**' issued based on the availability of a Detailed Design.

The Coffs Harbour Bypass route is unique along the Easter Seaboard because this is where the Great Dividing Range meets the coast. This is why our flora and fauna abounds to make Coffs Harbour a biodiversity hotspot. I am pleased common sense has prevailed and that we now have three tunnels and a lower grade line and quiet open cut asphalt.

To aid biodiversity please ensure the bypass is being build that only local native species is used during regeneration activities to ensure the least disturbance to our flora and fauna is achieved.

Another area of concern in the EIS is the serious issue of dangerous goods particularly in such a dense location as the existing highway through our town. The tunnel in Ewingsdale at the Byron Bay turn off; the signs mentions that only 1 and 2:1 class of dangerous goods cannot go through.

A dangerous goods risk assessment must have been completed for RMS to make any type of decision in Coffs Harbour. Why has this important information been omitted from everyone in Coffs Harbour, including Coffs Council?

As a concerned resident of Coffs Harbour I want the same rules as that applied to the Eqingsdale tunnel, applied to our tunnels and that all dangerous goods except Class 1 and Class 2.1 can use the Coffs Harbour Bypass.

Yours sincerely

Lorraine Penn

I do not make political donations