

Lot 135B Mackays Road
Coffs Harbour
NSW
2450

24 October 2019
Director - Transport Assessments
Department of Planning
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

**R A & P A Benjamin submission regarding Coffs Harbour Bypass Environmental
Impact Statement (SSI_7666) 2019**

We have lived in this rural environment in Mackays Road since 1991.

While none of our property is to be acquired by the RMS for the proposed Coffs Harbour Bypass, we feel that the proposed new design for the proposed Coffs Harbour Bypass will severely impact our lifestyle, our home and access to our home. Our concerns are with regards to the following issues.

1. We are extremely concerned about the impact that the noise generated by the new highway design will have on our home and lifestyle. Our home is located close to the mountain and almost directly under Coffs Harbour's highest point, Peak End. This will mean that the noise from the highway will be twofold in that it will come directly to us as well as being thrown up against the mountain at the back of our home and subsequently echo down directly into our living areas once more. To minimise the noise impact on the Coffs Harbour township, a sound/vision mound is to be built further down and to the south east of our home in the valley below. While the height of this proposed sound/vision mound will not completely block our current town and sea views, it will be an unsightly blot in the midst of those views. The sound/visual mound will also throw the highway noise back up to our home. We feel that it is unfair that some parts of the community are being catered for with the construction of this sound/vision mound, yet we are not because the highway noise will also be thrown back to our home from this sound/vision mound.
2. Our home will be in close proximity to the proposed tunnel through the hillside on the south western side of the valley. We feel that this tunnel will further increase further the disruption to our lifestyle by even more noise being funnelled by highway traffic noise echoing from the walls of the tunnel into the valley and into our home.
3. The construction of the tunnel near our home is another major concern to us. We assume there will be blasting, vibrations, heavy machinery, dust, noise, access interruption and general inconvenience during the construction. We find this

unacceptable. We are a couple in our 90s. This disruption to our regular lifestyle could potentially severely impact on our health. We are also concerned that the construction of the tunnel requiring blasting activity will be detrimental to the structural soundness of our home.

4. We are concerned that the proposed access to our home in the newest highway design will be indirect and difficult if not dangerous with regards particularly to our age, for us to traverse. We feel unsure and uninformed about what to expect with the proposed access once the highway is built. We are also unsure and feel we haven't been informed at all about what provisions will be made for us to access our property during the construction period. We feel very nervous about the disturbance the construction will cause to our way of life and well being. Beyond the construction we feel that our access to the highway and into the Coffs Harbour town centre will be circuitous and extremely difficult to manage. It seems that while it takes us between 5-10 minutes to drive from our home to the town centre, Park Beach Plaza or the beach, the new highway design and the access we assume we will be provided with will at least double the time it takes for us to reach these destinations. We feel severely disadvantaged by this arrangement.
5. We also feel that we are being misled by the photographs and models in the displays of the bypass which show minimum numbers of cars and few if any trucks. We feel that these photographs and models falsely represent the volume of traffic that will use this highway and thus be detrimental to us and the larger community.
6. Because the proposed highway runs in such close proximity to our home, the value of our home and land has been dramatically devalued. Properties and homes close to our home have been sold to, are up for sale and/or acquired by the RMS at greatly decreased prices which then become the "market value". This then devalues our home and property. If there was no highway these prices would be much higher and the value of our home and property would be greatly increased. We ask the RMS, what compensation will be offered to us for this decrease in value of our home and property, the huge inconvenience, uncertainty, and lack of information? We have not been adequately informed by the RMS about the process of construction of the highway, final access to and from our property, the inconvenience experienced by us during construction and afterwards when it is built. We feel this whole process has been done under cover of secrecy so that the cheapest option for a bypass and it's construction can be pushed ahead to satisfy some political and financial end at the enormous expense to the Coffs Harbour community at large and to us personally and our lifetime investment, ie our home and property.

Yours sincerely

Ronald A and Palmere A Benjamin