

## Southern Bypass of Bangalow Forum

Good Evening,

Let me start first by introducing my self. My name is Ray Hick and I own the property Heavenly Valley Farms. It is a commercial Orchard growing predominately Peaches and Nectarines. The other affected landowners have asked me to talk on their behalf.

I only found out about this proposal 2 weeks ago when a lady in the supermarket asked me what I thought about the new bypass road going through my property in fact the proposed route is straight through my house, packing shed and cool rooms. I knew nothing so she arranged for Ian Hay to send me some information on the matter. Apparently I am not the only one who knew nothing about the proposal. Since my letters to the editor have been published I have received numerous calls from residents wanting to know what this is all about.

I wrote to the Mayor asking why we had not been advised of this proposal. Apparently the mayor is of the opinion that it is not council's job to advise the residents effected. She thinks it is the RTA's .. This is not the actions of a consultative and caring council.

### **Not good enough Jan seeing that the council initiated the matter.**

Let me say upfront I do not think it is appropriate for residents to try and solve issues such as this because of the emotions involved. It should be done by the experts. Now that I am here I would like to share with you some of my thoughts regarding the bypass.

I have tried to understand the main objective and I can only establish that the residents that live along the Lismore-Bangalow road from the 80 klm sign, the residents of Granuaille Road and those residents on the hill at Ewingsdale don't want to have the amount of traffic past their houses. I can sympathise with the noise of heavy vehicles but the road was there before any of these residents. It would be the same thing if I complained about the traffic noise of the highway.

This groups representatives went to the council last year and in September the council moved a motion that the RTA be approached regarding the construction of a southern bypass. It was only after this official approach that the RTA has had to respond. The estimated cost of the bypass is in excess of \$30million and I don't know if this figure includes purchasing the properties involved. If not you could add another \$6M to \$10M. All this will do is divert the traffic from around the Industrial Estate to the new highway south of Bangalow.

I would have thought that it would be naive to think the Government would spend that amount of money to satisfy the wishes of such a few residents. Once that decision was made the next logical step would be to upgrade the road from Lismore to take B Doubles and Triple Doubles and make this the main corridor for heavy vehicles from and to Lismore and beyond.

Once this is done the residents of Bangalow will forever be faced with this problem of noise.

I assume the council before taking the action investigated the situation of coping with the volume of flood water that flows down Byron Creek during periods of heavy rain. In such times Byron Creek is over ½ klm wide and the waters are at least 4 metres deep. Building the bypass road will have the effect of building a dam across the valley and the current residents that experience flood waters entering their houses I would expect will be greater affected, those who don't now will be in the future.

The aquaduct west of the village will take longer to clear and put more strain on houses in around Rifle Range Road.

The commercial centre of Bangalow will run a major risk of flooding.

What about the noise level at Clover Hill Estate? They will have a major road immediately behind them to the south and the highway to the east. If they think it is noisy now wait until this is constructed.

This would be a disaster for the residents in Clunes and Bex Hill as well as the residents in Bangalow. How many children will be involved in accidents with big rigs. Were the residents along the proposed route asked consulted or did the council act without any thought of the consequences of the proposal.

I could go on about the effect to the last piece of the big scrub which is the breeding ground for the bird wing butterfly that is on my land. This is one of only a handful of breeding grounds in the North Coast.

The pollution possibility to Byron Creek as a result of overturning of heavy rigs and accidents.

What about the loss of 40 jobs in the orchards affected. Jobs are not easy to come by in this area and supposedly the council supports sustainable agriculture. This action hardly supports it – it decimates the peach and nectarine production in the shire. None of these issues in my opinion have been properly thought out by the council before approaching the RTA with this proposal.

An important issue for the business community I would have thought would be the impact on not having any tourists drive through the village from Lismore and beyond. Maybe the council has undertaken an economic survey and the shop owners are happy with the projected outcome and subsequent loss of income.

Let us imagine Bangalow in 30 years time. The village will have grown and houses would stretch up to Lawlers Lane all through the valley. They would have a major road in the middle of the village. What a legacy for us to leave the next generation. Remember 10 years ago there was only the water tower on the hill north of the rail line now it is full of houses.

I would have thought that the solution that solves the problem rather than moving it from one persons' back yard to another's IS.

Use the Bruxner Highway as the road north and south from Lismore for all articulated vehicles. With the Ballina Bypass and the Alstonville bypass being constructed this

would be a purpose built road capable of carrying heavy vehicles at speeds of 100km. It would be a faster route and the additional 13-14klms would be offset by better fuel consumption and it would take no longer. Not to mention less stress on the truck drivers. Truck drivers I speak to tell me that this road from Bangalow to Lismore is one of the most dangerous they drive on.

Once this re-routing is done then the existing road from Lismore should be closed to articulated vehicles and used only for cars and light trucks. In its present state this road is really a maximum 80 klms per hour road and not fit for heavy vehicles. With the amount of signatures on the petition against the by-pass it is obvious that we property owners are not the only ones that don't agree with the decision.

I think the actions of the council have been **irresponsible, unprofessional** and not in the interests of **all** residents of Bangalow. As usual all that it has achieved has added stress to some residents and given false hope to others.

Thank you