

DIRECTOR ENGINEERING REPORT

11th May 2004

**DE2 PROPOSED UPGRADE OF THE PACIFIC HIGHWAY
FILE: R PACIFIC HIGHWAY APV**

SUMMARY:

Reporting on the flooding impacts of the proposed upgrade of the Pacific Highway.



As a result of concerns raised by Council and residents regarding the flooding impacts of the proposed upgrade of the Pacific Highway between Kempsey and Eungai, a meeting was convened by Council on 20th February 2004 at the Community Care Centre, Kempsey. The meeting was attended by Councillors, Council staff, representatives of the RTA, Parsons Brickerhoff and Webb McKeown and community representatives of the affected areas.

A copy of the meeting notes is attached ([Appendix A](#)). Issues raised by the community representatives were listed and discussed. Issues included the cost of the project, State Floodplain Policy, Western Route option, evacuation, lowering of existing mounds, scouring, memorial avenue of trees, submissions received and ongoing consultation.

Some issues were addressed at the meeting, other issues required further consideration with a response to be provided by the RTA at a subsequent meeting, whilst other issues will be considered at later stages of the project eg. EIS stage.

The RTA agreed to:

- continue to meet with the Flooding Impacts Working Group during this phase of studies
- confirm the cost to provide a bridge across the whole floodplain
- investigate options regarding the removal of soil on the southern side of the river.
- provide information on the flood modelling and the audit as part of a report at the end of this current stage of works.
- consider whether the consultants engaged to audit the flood studies could attend the next meeting.

All representatives present recognised the value of the meeting and the need for on-going meetings. The next meeting of the Pacific Highway Flooding Impacts Working Group has been scheduled for 18th May 2004 at the Civic Centre. Issues received by Council from representatives will be forwarded to the RTA for discussion at this meeting.

Director's Comment:

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The benefits of the Pacific Highway Flooding Impacts Working Group are substantial as the meetings of the group provide an important opportunity for Council and the community representatives to raise and discuss issues directly with the RTA concerning the flooding impacts of the proposed bypass.

Other Implications:

There are no financial, policy or statutory implications arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the information be noted.

K J Finnie
DIRECTOR ENGINEERING