

People with an Interest in Road Safety for Waterfall Way

Email us at: friendsofwaterfallway@gmail.com

Or visit our website: www.friendsofwaterfallway.wordpress.com

09 January, 2017

Joint letter to:

Liz Jeremy General Manager Bellingen Shire Council Via email	John Alexander Roads & Maritime Services Grafton Via email
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The community requests that the Bellingen Shire Council and the RMS jointly organise public meetings in **Bellingen and Dorrigo** early in February 2017 to address issues, which have been raised recently in relation to safety, amenity, heavy vehicle traffic, health and tourism.

Issues raised to date include:

1. How will the projected increase in heavy vehicle numbers affect the tourism and economic development goals stated in the BSC Draft Economic Development & Tourism Plan 2015-2020?
2. How will the projected increase in heavy vehicle numbers affect the Bellingen Main Street Plan and its declared goal of making Bellingen a “pedestrian friendly town”?
3. What is the RMS 10 year/20 year strategy for the economic viability of Waterfall Way?
4. Will the projected increase in heavy vehicle traffic and resulting persistent pollutants have long-term effects on the community?
5. How will the increased heavy vehicle traffic affect tourism in the shire?
6. Is there a plan to monitor heavy vehicle weights to ensure compliance and to preserve the integrity of Waterfall Way – in particular the mountain road which is crucial to the Dorrigo community?
7. The BSC Draft Economic Development & Tourism Plan 2015-2020 states that the council will “advocate for the improvement of alternative routes (from Dorrigo) to Coffs Harbour to decrease reliance on Waterfall Way” – what progress has been made on this issue?
8. When will the RMS be undertaking an Environmental Impact Study on the possible effects of contaminants resulting from vehicle emissions which (a) tend to settle in valleys and (b) affect the air quality for people living on or within 100 m of major roads?
9. Can the RMS update the community with regard to the 32 short term, and 5 medium to long term safety improvements that resulted from community consultation in 2015?
10. In light of the above mentioned increase of traffic and pollutants, will Waterfall Way retain its NRMA recommendation as “the most popular scenic drive in New South Wales” in the future?

We request that senior representatives from the BSC and RMS make themselves available at these public meetings, to inform the community of the measures being taken to ensure the long term health and economic viability of the shire.

The meetings should be advertised in both local newspapers, on the council website and via the next printed quarterly newsletter (due out in January 2017) sent to all ratepayers to ensure community awareness.

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The community is happy to work with BSC and RMs to finalise an agenda, which would include an open Q&A session. We would also suggest that the Q&A session should be professionally mediated by a neutral party.

We look forward to hearing from you as early as possible.

Primary Circulation List:

Minister for Roads	Duncan Gay
Mayor – Bellingen Shire	Dominic King
NRMA – Senior Economic Advisor	Wal Setkiewicz
Bellingen Chamber of Commerce	Sue Lennox
Dorrigo Chamber of Commerce	Patsy Green
North Coast Destination Network	Michael Grieve
Dorrigo Aboriginal Lands Council	Robin Heath
Dorrigo Gazette	Michael & Jade English
Bellingen Courier Sun	Ute Shulenberg
Friends of Waterfall Way	Mail List & Website
RMS Local Traffic Committee	Luke Hartsuyker Greg Aitken
Member for Oxley	Melinda Pavey
Federal Member for Cowper	Luke Hartsuyker
Councillors – Bellingen Council	Steve Klipin Toni Wright-Turner Steve Jenkins Desmae Harrison Garry Carter Jenny Fenton