

People with an Interest in Road Safety for Waterfall Way

Email us at: friendsofwaterfallway@gmail.com

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

20th February, 2017

Attention: Matt Fanning,
Deputy General Manager Operations,
Bellingen Shire Council
Via email: council@bellingen.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir,

We refer to our letter of 09 January, and thank you for your response of 20 January.

We would point out that our letter did not refer to the DA modification request by Sheridans Hard Rock Quarry, rather it contained questions relating to the long term effects on the community of increased heavy vehicle traffic over the coming years.

Members of the community and representatives of Bellingen and Dorrigo Chambers of Commerce recently met with the Roads & Maritime Services (RMS) to discuss issues relating to safety, amenity, the environment and heavy vehicle traffic on Waterfall Way.

- The RMS reported that 26 of the 32 recommendations resulting from the 2014 community consultation process and the 2014 Waterfall Way Road Safety Review have either been completed or are in progress.
- In response to the community's request for details of the RMS's ten and twenty year plans – the RMS advised that statewide Corridor Strategies are currently being developed in collaboration with the NSW Government. Waterfall Way will be the next corridor to be reviewed. Due to the high level of interest and concern expressed by Bellingen Shire residents, the community will be extensively consulted during the draft strategy phase and have an opportunity to comment on the completed Strategy. We trust that representatives from the Bellingen Shire Council (BSC) will take an active role in this process.

We also trust that any road safety, amenity and environmental issues raised by the community at the Community Strategic Plan Focus Group Meetings currently underway in Dorrigo, Urunga and Bellingen will be incorporated into the list of issues previously raised by the community at our public meetings.

And since you raised the subject of Sheridans Hard Rock Quarry/Matsid ...

- We would point out that whilst the DA modification is being heard by the JRPP with input from Clarence Valley Council, 73Km of the proposed route, **that is 87%**, lies within Bellingen Shire, therefore we believe that the council has a duty of care to its rate payers

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and should be actively involved in the process, attending hearings and advising the community of the possible impact of the JRPP decision.

- We note that the JRPP deferral required that the Clarence Valley Council further consulted with the Bellingen Shire Council with regard to the impacts of peak truck movements through Dorrigo and Bellingen. If it is your opinion that several weeks of peak truck movements (that is one truck every five minutes in daylight hours) would have no impact on amenity, air-quality and commerce – we would be interested to know on what basis you came to this conclusion?

We look forward to receiving your response on the issues raised in our original letter, and advise that once we have received notification of the next JRPP hearing date, we will be calling a public meeting. While we would hope that BSC councillors will attend, we will formally invite a BSC representative.

For further details please contact: Pauline Kidson – 0410 031 935