

## APPENDIX T

Ref: R12/88, F12/1740, LA«LOT\_ID»  
RJS:RG

13 September 2017

«NAME»  
«ADD1»  
«ADD2»

Dear Sir/Madam

### **Investigation into a concept to upgrade Plummers Lane to a design speed of 100 km/h**

I am writing to inform you that Council staff have commenced an investigation into the viability of upgrading Plummers Lane to a 100 km/h design speed.

In particular, we have started with a detailed investigation of the first section east from Macleay Valley Way in the vicinity of Menarcobrinni Road. This section of road is in the current works program for major work this year. It is important that we consider this in the context of the desire to improve the standard of the road over its length before committing to an outcome.

We have had some initial discussions with owners of properties in the vicinity of Menarcobrinni Road intersection. The following concerns are those that have been raised and discussed so far:

- **Excessive speeding** – There is the potential that providing a straighter/safer alignment to the road may encourage drivers to travel at excessive speed. Whilst this may tend to be the case, motorists should obey the posted speed signs in any circumstance irrespective of what road they are driving on.
- **Bisecting properties** - Most of the properties in this area have traditionally been laid out around the existing road network. Any deviation of the road alignment could easily result in bisecting properties, making it difficult for livestock and machinery to be moved from one paddock to the other. This is a common impact resulting from road upgrades and can often require additional infrastructure such as access culverts.
- **Impacts on flooding** – Roads on the Lower Macleay tend to have some impact on the way that floodwater develops and recedes within the Lower Macleay floodplain area. Any significant variation of levels and alignment has the potential to influence flooding. A Flood Study would be required if significant deviation was required.
- **Reduction of privacy** – With most properties designed or developed around the existing road network, deviations to the road alignment may reduce the privacy for particular residences.
- **Increase in noise** – The variation of the road relative to existing houses may increase the level of road related noise experienced in areas of properties that are not currently exposed to this.

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- **Reduction in road safety** – Any increase in the road speed would need to be coupled with improvements in fencing to limit the risk of having animals stray onto the road. At the present 80 km/h speed zone, drivers are far more likely to be able to stop or avoid a hazard on the road than they would be able to travelling at the higher speed of 100 km/h.

Please find attached a basic map showing the concept alignment being investigated. Based on the radius of the current curves, to provide a 100 km/h design speed it will be necessary to realign the road from about 1.2km west of Summer Island Road to the vicinity of the current intersection of Plummers Lane with Rainbow Reach Road. A small deviation would be required near Croads Lane and, in general, the remainder of the existing alignment could be widened or improved within the existing road reserve to deliver a 100 km/h design speed.

Based on the concept alignment, we estimate that the travel time between the highway and South West rocks would be reduced by approximately two minutes.

We are presently working on a preliminary estimate of cost for the proposal; however, based on our previous experience the cost to realign a road subject to the same traffic volume as Plummers Lane would be in the vicinity of \$1m per kilometre.

In order to assist with the finalisation of this assessment, please do not hesitate to provide Council with any other issues that you think should be considered at this time.

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact Council.

Yours faithfully

Robert Scott  
DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

Encl

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