

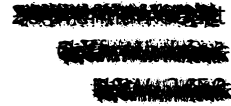


Response from Andrew Woodward
Labor Candidate for Cowper (federal)
29 October 2018

As published on www.coffsbypass.com

Read my full submission on the Preferred Concept Design
at www.coffsbypass.com

Marnie Cotton



25/10/18

Dear Andrew Woodward, Labor Candidate for the Federal Division of Cowper,

As a representative of the Coffs Bypass Action Group, I am seeking clarification on your position regarding the recent changes to the Coffs CBD bypass. Can you please outline your positions regarding the current changes, including:

- Do you support the removal of all three tunnels to be replaced by large cuttings? **NO!**
- Do you support the increased elevation of the road, resulting from the removal of tunnels? **NO!**
- Do you support the destruction of significant koala habitat and significant Indigenous cultural heritage? **NO!**
- Do you understand the ramification to the residents of West Coffs? **YES, ABSOLUTELY.**
- Are you aware that the valley of West Coffs acts as a natural amphitheatre? **YES**
- Are you aware that generational farmers livelihoods will be made unviable because of these recent changes? **YES**
- Do you feel the RMS's processes are transparent and if so, can you explain why the EISs have not been released, as they should have been completed by June 2018? **NO AND NO**
- Do you think that the current route is appropriate and should a western bypass of Coffs Harbour be reconsidered? Since 2004, there have been significant changes in Coffs Harbour including development and growth in the west and the recent categorisation of Coffs Harbour as a city. A Coffs CBD bypass would impose constraints on population growth, reduce value and availability of prime real estate, loss of amenity (noise, pollution, lights, etc.) and major socio-economic impacts.
- Do you agree and will you support a call for a Royal Commission into the RMS? RMS has a long and documented history of ignoring community impacts, processes and the principles under which they are required to operate. In effect RMS has been running roughshod with impunity over communities throughout NSW who have raised legitimate concerns about the handling and impact of infrastructure projects on their communities (e.g. Hawkesbury, Bulahdelah). Coffs Harbour is not alone in this experience. **I HAVE INDICIATED THAT IF LABOR WINS THE FEDERAL ELECTION AND WHEN IT ESTABLISHES A NATIONAL INTEGRITY COMMISSION, I WILL REFER THIS MATTTTER TO IT AND OR THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL AUDIT OFFICE.**

As a member of the Coffs Bypass Action Group, I look forward to receiving a detailed response from you, which I will share with our group. As the Labor candidate for the Federal Division of Cowper, your position on these points is important information for constituents in regards to pending elections. We believe Coffs deserves the best bypass and that this current proposal falls terribly short. Please inform us of your position in a written response.

In short, I believe the Preferred Concept Design from RMS is totally unsatisfactory. Labor, in supporting the project in principle, calls on the federal and state governments to provide all of the missing reports; answer all critical unanswered questions and come up a revised Preferred Concept Design which ultimately features full-length tunnels and not trenches (cuttings and land bridges).

Regards,
Marnie Cotton
From the Coffs Bypass Action Group



ANDREW WOODWARD
Labor Candidate for Cowper,
29 October 2018