

# Public submission

NAME REDACTED

Submission ID: 205318

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**Organisation:** *N/A*

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**Location:** *Redacted*

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**Supporting materials uploaded:** *Attached overleaf*

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Submission date: 10/13/2024 11:49:22 PM

13/10/2024

**Thank you** for allowing me, a member of a rural community to write and let you know of the effects of Forestry on my and many others lives.

**I was advised by a very well respected Koala and Native Wildlife Carer that our submissions may be a waste of time, as they felt it would not be independent due to who was appointed to review to Submissions.**

It is published that BioMass Waste is transported out of Gum Scrub to Vailes Point Power Station some 308 kilometres away.

I live at [REDACTED] NSW on acerage on a unsealed road. Gum Scrub is located in the Port Macquarie Hastings LGA between Telegraph Point and Rollands Plains.

You may have seen Telegraph Point in the news during the NSW Flood Crisis in March 2021 with many homes and lives severley impacted. We have also been affected by the 2019 Bushfires, with homes and habitat lost at Telegraph Point and Gum Scrub.

It is, in the main a Agricultural area (not broad scale) also with residential lifestyle blocks and more villages as you get closer to the highway.

Rollands Plains Road is our only sealed main local service road for our community to access Australia Post, Our Community Hall and Emergency Point, Fuel and the Highway. We have no medical help at all, not even access to a Ambulance Station.

It is a main School Bus route.

It is very narrow, winding in parts with steep drop off's to the Wilsons River. The northern railway line threads along side, Rollands Plains Road.

This road connects with a sealed minor **Ballengarra Bransdon Road** which is a very steep, winding, narrow road with blind corners, which Port Macquarie Hastings Council advises by sign that drivers engage in **UHF Radio communication** with Forestry and Mill related traffic. We do not own a UHF radio.

After the Gum Scrub School Pick Up and Community Garbage Bin stop, the road continues onto a unsealed Ballengarra Bransdon Road **with no speed advisory signs at all and again, advice to use a UHF Radio.**

These signs have been placed within the last couple of years. This unsealed road has NO formed shoulders. The length of the road has a mixture of culverts to allow drainage, some formed with concrete headwalls and drop off's of approx. two meters and many other unformed culverts barely wide enough for two passing cars.

This road continues onto to Old Kempsey Road which is the same formation as the unsealed

portion of Ballengarra Bransdon Road.

**One road in and one road out.**

This is the only access route to Haydens Timber Mill (2004) a non residential premise. Prior to Haydens Timber Mill being established, it was a non registered Bush Mill attached to a farm. Haydens Timber Mill also works in tandem with a Fire Wood supply and Large trucking business, owned by the Mill Manager.

The unsealed portion of Old Kempsey Road located near my family home has been topped with recycled disused asphalt road waste, small rocks and stones of all types, crushed concrete waste, tiles and disused gravel spill of unknown origin with obviously no material data sheets.

After a 2022 flood over the culvert next to my home, waste that had topped the road was further revealed to contain pieces of off cuts of engineered stone.

The large amount of heavy traffic combined with the weight of the trucks associated with the business of Forestry, daily pound this waste down and disperse it into the air we all breathe. It coats our skin, gets in our eyes, coats our washing and the vegetables we try to grow.

It is in our water supply.

Port Macquarie Hastings Council has recently published that they are looking to obtain a licence to apply "untreated effluent" to unsealed roads when carrying out their maintenance shedule.

Old Kempsey Road is on a 6 six monthly grading schedule but recently due to weather events and the increased movements of multi axle heavy vehicle traffic, it has been more frequent, sometimes 4 four times a year. The road breaks down and is very corrogated by the heavy traffic. Other unsealed roads in the LGA are not afforded as much attention, some not at all. It has been suggested that resources are being used up by our areas unsealed roads.

Haydens Mill is owned and operated by people that live in other LGA's and now employs over 52, some out of area workers, this was not always the case. Traffic movements associated with the Mill are more frequent with much higher heavy classed vehicles.

The log trucks are a mixture of single and double trailers. I also note that the diameter of the logs are smaller and there are now B-Double Wood Chip Bin Trucks (9 axle) 66,000 kilo plus also truck and dog trailer combination's. Some Semi Trailers as well.

Mill traffic passes my home from 5.15 am onwards, trucks have been seen sometimes at 4am and continuously 5.30/6 am onwards until 6pm and sometimes after.

These trucks generate a lot of noise, through accelerating and air brakes.

Empty Wood Bin trucks create heavy vibration and very loud noise similar to a rumbling

thunder and explosions, on the pot holed and corrugated unsealed roads.

These traverse the road with School Buses, Small Live Stock Carriers, Tractors and Hay Bailers and Community Members. There are several blind spots. **It is not unusual to have three or more Wood Waste or heavy double forest log trucks on the road in tandem.**

Community Members that are Mothers, Fathers, Grand Parents, children with all sorts of family dynamics, roles and responsibilities including Medical and Emergency workers. Many types of vehicles are used for local transportation including small SUV family cars, Utes, Motor bikes, Push Bikes, Polaris and Quads locally.

Our community have to negotiate these very narrow unsealed roads with oncoming heavy laden log trucks and 66,000 kilogram B Double Wood Chip Trucks. The timber mill also has other traffic movements including Double Tanker Fuel trucks.

We also have escaped livestock and wildlife on the road as well.

The Port Macquarie Hastings Council Community Consultation highlighted that this was a huge concern for the community on a whole and action needs to happen.

The timber mill operates a Industrial Generator (including after hours that makes sleeping impossible). Several homes near the Mill have sold, sometimes over, which is unusual in Rural settings. I have also been told of two relationships that have broken up, a contributing factor was the Mill.

**Ideas were put forward for Haydens Timber Mill to be moved closer next to the Highway for the health and safety of all the communities, this was also published in the Draft 2020-2021 Operational Plan in the comments area. Surplus RTA land was mentioned.**

This would be a cheaper option than sealing the two unsealed roads and create a much healthier and safer network of roads for the three communities of Telegraph Point, Rollands Plains and Gum Scrub.

Recently Rollands Plains Road was double line marked indicating no passing, it is very obvious to all the commuters that these long heavy vehicles are unable to stay within the confines of their lane. We are astounded that the very poor Rollands Plains Road, Ballengarra Bransdon Road and Old Kempsey Road are nominated and allowed as a BDouble route.

Air quality is very poor due to the large amounts of multi axle truck movements, this has lead to not being able to go outside for up to 13 hours in the day. We are not able to put our washing on the line and if we do it is covered in dust and grit from the road.

No one can walk in the area or ride their horses to the river, any longer. Many people schedule their movements on the road around the Hayden Timber Mills business hours, if possible.

There has been many reports of near misses.

I now use a Ventolin Puffer for Asthma, Saline Solution and Steroids for inflammation to my Nasal Passages which bleed daily, when at Gum Scrub. I also cough up mucous. We have also been advised that we are subject to "Kew" fever due to the dust plumes and to consider being vaccinated. I usually wear a mask when outside.

Sleep is always broken and sometimes non-existent.

Not at all good for your Mental or Physical health.

**It puts you at great risk, especially in a isolated environment.**

This situation is contributing to a rapid decline in my health, both physically and mentally. **I have to leave my home for respite periods.**

All the proven methods for promoting well being, mental health stability, heart and kidney health are denied our community due the truck movements, noise and low frequency after hours noise and dust. We have Mental Health and Sleep implications as well.

We are not able to fully ventilate our home due the dust and most of our windows have to be kept shut.

My neighbours have signs on their fences, asking for the trucks to slow down due to the dust, but there is no change in behavior. High speed is also a issue.

It is also a given that the air quality would be affecting stock in the area as they graze next to the road. This is the food that Australians eat.

In the past we have had several truck accidents including roll overs. One Wood Bin Truck rolled on Rollands Plains Road and blocked the access in both directions to the whole community for several hours.

A log truck rolled on the unsealed portion of Ballengarra Brandson road, again blocking access. I am unsure if there were injuries, but I am quite sure, it is just a matter of time before another very serious accident will occur and there will be injuries or the loss of lives

If this Forestry and Biomass waste Business, continues or grows, other communities will suffer the impacts of what our community suffer and also the situation in our community will be much worse.

It is worth noting that our local National Party Members State (Michael Kemp) past (Melinda Pavey) and Federal (Pat Conaghan) and our newly elected Mayor is completely supportive of Haydens Mill (Published). Facebook and Hansard.



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The Shooters and Fishers are regulars at Haydens Mill as well. (Published Facebook)

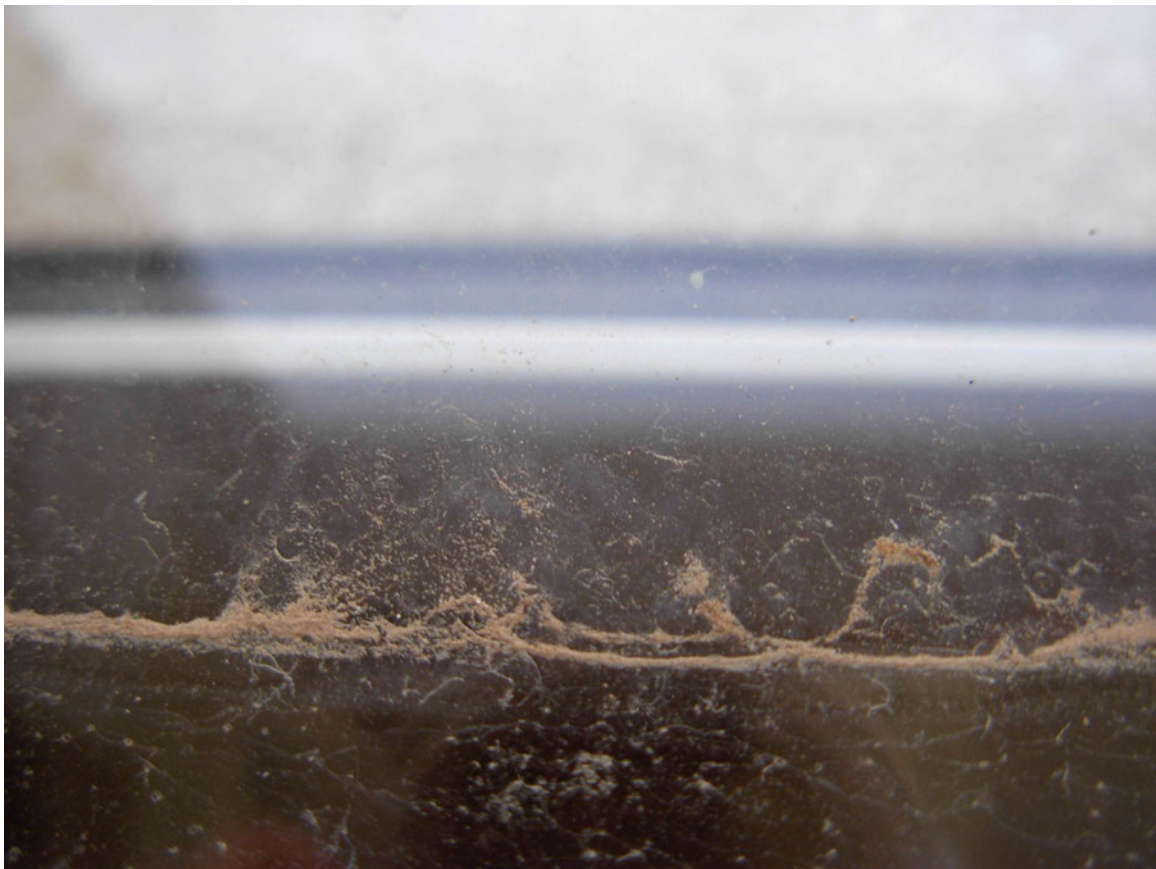
When I have voted at my local polling booth (Telegraph Point Primary School) Noel Atkins has been the person who offers me the Nationals, how to vote phamplet as I walk in.

**So I appreciate the opportunity to have a voice, however small, on behalf of my family and our community.**

**I feel "quiet locked out" of speaking to my local State and Federal members and local Mayor about our situation.**

**Thank You.**







2021/06/29 14:05:47