

BILL BRAINES

(1)

I AM HERE TODAY TO ASK COUNCIL TO TAKE URGENT ACTION TO REOPEN AN ILLEGALLY CLOSED SECTION OF PUBLIC ROAD IN A HIGH RISK FIRE ZONE.

IN 2016 FORESTRY CORP INSTALLED 8 LARGE BARTH BARRIERS OVER A 3 KM SECTION OF WAGONGA SCENIC DRIVE, WITH PERMANENT RE DIRECTION SIGNALS.

IN DOING SO DENIED RESIDENTS, RECREATIONAL GROUPS, TOURISTS ALONG WITH EMERGENCY AND ESSENTIAL SERVICES ACCESS TO A VITAL LINKING ROAD.

AFTER CONTACTING COUNCIL

MR SHARPE AND USHER RESPONDED WITH FULL SUPPORT FOR FORESTRY'S ACTIONS, SHOWING NO REGARD FOR OUR COMMUNITIES RIGHTS AND SAFETY.

THEY HAVE SINCE COLLABORATED WITH FORESTRY TO KEEP THIS SECTION CLOSED WITHOUT NOTICE OF ANY KIND OR CONSULTATION WITH OUR COMMUNITY, INCLUDING THE RFS
"THEY DECIDED FOR ALL OF US!"

THEY CLAIMED THEY WERE UNAWARE OF THE CLOSURE

THIS THEN CONSTITUTED A BREACH OF THE NSW ROADS ACT 1993 ON 2 COUNTS BY FORESTRY

COUNCIL TOOK NO ACTION

~~RECEIVED~~ MY EMAIL TO COUNCIL ATTACHMENT(1) NOT ANSWERED FOR OVER 6 MONTHS

AFTER TWO ROUNDS OF STATE FUNDED BRIDGE REPLACEMENTS OVER THE LAST 7 YEARS COUNCIL REFUSED TO INCLUDE MAKINS BRIDGE THATS ON THIS ROAD.

THIS COULD OF SAVED THE RATEPAYER MANY HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS

NO REASON HAS BEEN GIVEN FOR THIS OMISSION.

~~RECEIVED~~ NEW TO EMAILS TO COUNCIL

ATTACHMENT(2) A REQUEST FOR A MEETING SEEKING ANSWERS ON BEHALF OF OUR COMMUNITY. THIS WAS NOT GRANTED.

COUNCIL HAVE ^{MAINTAINED} FOR MANY YEARS WHAT THEY CALL ALTERNATIVE ROADS

HOWEVER THESE ARE INFACIT FORESTRY ROADS AND NOT COUNCIL ASSETS.

WHILE THEY NEGLECT MANY OTHER PUBLIC AND CROWN ROADS AROUND THE SHIRE

FORESTRY HAVE ESTABLISHED MANY FACILITIES IN THIS AREA AND SHOULD

BE MAINTAINING THESE ROADS

NOT THE RATEPAYERS.

~~INFACIT SUSTAINING~~
~~FORESTRY'S OPERATIONS.~~

IN A LETTER TO ME FROM MR SWALLOW
(NOW DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE)
DATED 5TH OCT 2018

HE STATED THAT A BRIDGE REPORT
WAS CARRIED OUT BY COUNCIL STAFF
FOR MAKING BRIDGE AND WAS THE
REASON FOR THE CLOSURE.

AFTER, MY FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST
MR SWALLOW HAS NOW

ADVISED THAT THIS REPORT WAS
NEVER CARRIED OUT.

THIS IMPLIES MR SWALLOW HAS
LIED IN THE ORIGINAL LETTER
OR IS LYING NOW.

EITHER WAY MR SWALLOW HAS LIED
WHY WOULD A MANAGER IN A
TRUSTED POSITION IN COUNCIL HAVE
A NEED TO LIE LIKE THIS.?

AS THE ROAD AUTHORITY COUNCIL
HAVE A DUTY OF CARE TO ENSURE
THE SAFETY OF OUR COMMUNITY
AGAINST FIRE.

AT NO STAGE HAS COUNCIL CORRESPONDED
WITH THE RFS OR OBTAINED A
RISK ASSESSMENT OF THIS CLOSURE

INSTEAD MR SHARPE AND MR RUSHER HAVE
ACCEPTED A FORESTRY DETERMINATION
THAT THIS SECTION OF PUBLIC ROAD
IS NOT REQUIRED FOR FIRE ACCESS
OR CONTROL

I BELIEVE THIS SHOULD BE DIRECTED
TO RFS, NOT SOME FORESTRY BEAUCRAT.

ATTACHMENT 3 IS FORESTRY'S EMAIL TO EPA ON A WASHOUT ON THIS SECTION OF ROAD 1 REPORTED IN SEPTEMBER 2018 THIS IS AN INDICATION OF THE ILLEGAL LENGTHS FORESTRY HAVE GONE TO CLOSE THIS SECTION OF ~~THE~~ PUBLIC ROAD MORE BREACHS OF THE ROADS ACT BY FORESTRY AND WITH AN OBVIOUS HIDDEN AGENDA, EPA ARE AWARE OF

ATTACHMENT 4 IS THE OMBUDSMAN'S COMMENT TO COUNCIL

MR MILLER HAS TAKEN IT ON HIMSELF TO ADDRESS THIS CLOSURE AND LEFT IT OPEN TO DO A FORMAL INVESTIGATION, IF NEEDED BE

MR MILLER HAS NOT ACCEPTED COUNCIL'S BIZARRE CLAIM THAT IT'S A TEMPORARY CLOSURE NOR THAT EMERGENCY VEHICLES CAN ACCESS THIS ROAD.

HE STATES THAT COUNCIL SHOULD OPEN AND MAINTAIN IT AND CONSULT "DIRECTLY" WITH RFS

COUNCIL SAID THEY ARE NOT PREPARED TO OFFICIALLY CLOSE THIS ROAD.

MANY OF OUR SHIRE ROADS ARE IN
 POOR CONDITION
 IN FACT WAGONGA SCENIC DRV NORTH
 OF THIS CLOSED SECTION IS IN A
 VERY POOR STATE
 BUT IT IS NOT CLOSED OFF BY
 EARTH BARRIERS
 SO THESE BARRIERS ARE NOT THERE
 BECAUSE OF ROAD CONDITION AT ALL
 IF THE BRIDGE CONDITION WAS
 THEN THE ISSUE - THEN WHY
 HAS IT BEEN LEFT OFF THE
 BRIDGE RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS
 ALL THIS WITH NO NOTICE
 OR CONSULTATION WITH OUR
 COMMUNITY

INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT
 ARE OPERATING WITH IMPUNITY
 SHOWING TOTAL DISREGARD
 FOR THE OMBUDSMAN'S DETERMINATION
 TO OPEN THE ROAD
 THEY HAVE ^{NOW} DUMPED TONNES OF
 EARTH ON THE SOUTHERN END
 OF THE ROAD

MANAGEMENT DON'T HAVE TO BE
 TRANSPARENT THEY LIKE IT CLOUDED
 WITH NEPOTISM, INACTION, COVER UP,
 DECEIT AND LIES.
 AND SHOW NO LOYALTY TO THE
 COMMUNITY WHO EMPLOYE THEM

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AS THE FIRE SEASON ^{is} UPON US
I REQUEST COUNCIL TAKE IMMEDIATE
ACTION BY CONTACTING RFS HEAD
OFFICE "DIRECTLY" TO OBTAIN A
FIRE ASSESSMENT

THEN TO HAVE THESE ILLEGAL
EARTH BARRIERS REMOVED
PER OMBUDSMAN'S DIRECTION
AT FORESTRY'S EXPENSE
AS THEY SHOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN
INSTALLED IN THE FIRST
PLACE

HAVE THE BRIDGE BROUGHT UP
TO A TRAFFICABLE STANDARD
WITH MAY BE A REDUCED LOAD LIMIT
ALTERNATIVELY SIGN POSTED AT
EITHER END UNTIL REPLACED

I SUSPECT MANAGEMENT WILL
TRY TO DRAG THIS OUT AS LONG
AS POSSIBLE TO PLEASE THEIR
FRIENDS.

BUT AS OUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES
I ASK YOU TO DECIDE THE FUTURE
OF THIS HISTORIC TOURIST ROAD
IN A HIGH RISK FIRE ZONE

IF YOU TAKE SWIFT + DECISIVE
ACTION IT WILL RESTORE OUR
COMMUNITIES "FLAGGING" FAITH IN
OUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT SYSTEM