



Wybong Action Group ^{Incorporated}

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Mr S McDonald
General Manager
Muswellbrook Shire Council
PO Box 122
Muswellbrook NSW 2333
5 April 2009

Dear Mr McDonald,

We are writing to you on behalf of the community of Wybong and all Wybong Road users to seek your assurance that following completion of the Bengalla Link Road Extension to Wybong Road that Wybong Road (East), from Roxburgh Road to Kayuga Road, will remain open for public access and commerce to and from Kayuga, Dartbrook, Aberdeen, Scone and North Muswellbrook until such time as the complimentary Muswellbrook Shire Council Western Roads Strategy Link Roads, the Mt Pleasant West and Mt Pleasant North Link Roads, are completed.

Retaining the important commerce, trade, employment and public access amenity of Wybong Road (East) until such time as the complimentary Muswellbrook Shire Council Western Roads Strategy Link Roads, the Mt Pleasant West and Mt Pleasant North Link Roads, are completed could not be considered to adversely impact Councils overall road maintenance cost as traffic volumes and maintenance load on the 7km Wybong Road (East) following the completion of the Bengalla Link Road Extension to Wybong Road would be expected to reduce by some 80% particularly if Wybong Road (East) is simultaneously restricted to Traffic Under 20 tonne Gross.

A timely assurance will relieve the concerns being expressed throughout the Western Shire and from Jerrys Plains & Merriwa to Mururrundi & McCully's Gap concerning the pending loss of existing access arrangements from Wybong to Kayuga, Dartbrook, Aberdeen and Scone particularly in regard to the continuing viability of agricultural commerce between and via Wybong and these destinations and vice versa for the carriage of fodder and livestock and the continuing employment of Shire residents in these areas.

Muswellbrook Shire Council should be aware that the only alternate route of access for continued trade, commerce, employment and industry is via the unsealed, higher accident risk, Castle Rock Road, which will massively increase costs for residents, vehicle owners, the agricultural industry and Council as regards the consequent need for upgrading the intersection of Wybong Road and Castle Rock Road, widening and upgrading the western end of Castle Rock Road, sealing of the unsealed section of Castle Rock Road, markedly increased maintenance of Castle Rock Road from Wybong Road to Kayuga Road and upgrading the intersection of Castle Rock Road and Kayuga Road (SISD distance/vertical alignment).

We are certain that Muswellbrook Shire Council does not intend to actively extinguish the existing commerce, industry, agriculture, property value and future economic developments in the Wybong area for no benefit, and to the detriment of Muswellbrook Shire.

The Community of Wybong and all Wybong Road users, property owners, vigneron, agriculturalists, pastoralists and those who have invested livelihoods in such ventures in Wybong look forward to your timely assurance on this matter.

Yours Sincerely,
John Shewan
President
Wybong Action Group
Cc Hon George Souris, Member for Upper Hunter, NSW Parliament.