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Doonan Bridge Road residents protest widening project



Residents of Doonan Bridge Road, behind Peregian Springs, fear a road widening and sealing project will cause safety problems, including crash hazards for residents in their own driveways and unpredictable flooding fears. Residents Mark Jones and Mark Newman are pictured with the various protest signs that highlight their concerns about the project. Photo: Richard Bruinsma. See the full story on Page 4.

Doonan Bridge Road residents protest widening project



The road widening project underway at Doonan Bridge Road. To the left, the photo shows the widening of the existing road; near the centre is a tree preserved due to significant rock formations at its base, and to the right of the tree is the residents' preferred new road route that is now the site of a widened drainage channel.



Doonan Bridge Road residents Mark Newman and Mark Jones show the size of the roadside drain that they fear is a safety hazard for motorists. Photos: Richard Bruinsma

By Richard Bruinsma

RESIDENTS of Doonan Bridge Road, behind Peregrin Springs, are protesting a road upgrade project that they say has been planned without true local consultation and will cause numerous safety problems.

The Sunshine Coast Council roadworks so far have included some tree clearing, the modification and construction of roadside drains, erecting of guardrail barriers, and basic road widening of the existing gravel road in readiness for eventual bitumen sealing.

But the protestors fear the works are creating safety problems.

"What they are proposing is insane and dangerous," one of the protestors, local resident Mark Jones, said.

Another resident, Mark Newman, who said his son's car was hit previously while emerging from their driveway, added: "Given the previous history of accidents, we just want them to listen".

Residents say the road widening has narrowed the roadside verge creating safety problems for residents alighting from their driveways, the culverts and road-side drains are potentially dangerous, realigned drains have caused flooding fears, the guardrails have caused crash concerns and also reportedly have

already trapped wildlife trying to travel through vegetation corridors.

The protestors say the road alignment was to have been modified, but concerns over a large tree and rock formation reportedly of indigenous significance has resulted in Sunshine Coast Council retaining the existing alignment, even though land for what residents believe is a safer alignment, away from their driveways, is available.

On top of all that, the residents feel they have never been properly consulted.

"We were basically railroaded, they said, 'We've got the money, we're going to build it'," Mr Jones said.

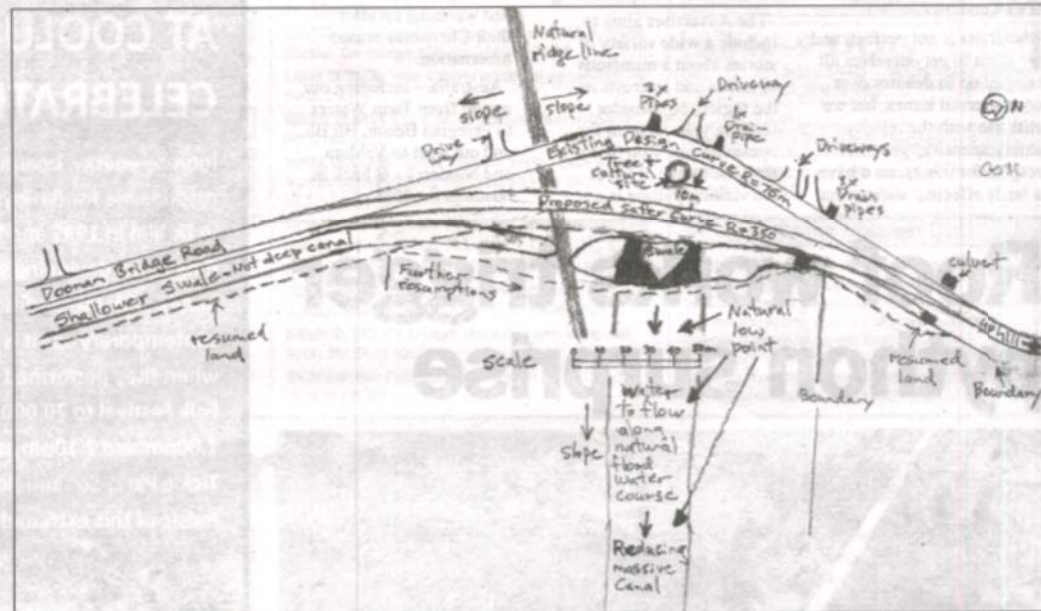
Mr Newman said: "We want an answer. Why haven't you reviewed it and come back to us?"

Mr Jones said, with the 100km/h speed limit proposed for the new road, they fear someone will be killed.

The protestors say they have received mixed messages from the Council about the works.

Sunshine Coast Council had not responded by deadline to questions about the project.

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A map of the alternate route that the residents hoped for the project.