

I heavily object to the proposed Bluestone Hard Rock Quarry Project under the following major concerns as a resident and landowner within the Stanhope community in NSW.

I refer to Bluestone Hard Rock & Aggregate Quarry's project for the proposed extraction of hard rock and conglomerate resource to supply aggregate and gravels suitable for road base and concrete batching in the local region.

At the estimated extraction rate disclosed as 1 million tonnes of hard rock per annum, I find it hard to believe that this project is for the benefit of the "local region" alone.

They openly state that there will be an impact of national environmental significance in reference to the following in their project application. Central Hunter Valley eucalypt forest and woodland ecological community (CEEC) Large-eared Pied Bat (*Chalinolobus dwyeri*) (Vulnerable) foraging habitat Grey-headed Flying-fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*) (Vulnerable) foraging habitat. I believe they have overlooked some things like, Spotted gum communities, Quolls (endangered), several wallaby species, abundant bird varieties, reptiles and the fact that the Lower Hunter region contains a diverse range of native habitats and is home to over 65 threatened entities. I live here and all the animals that they have not included are really here.

From the EIS for Bluestone's proposal, I see many assumptions, predictions, minimisation and avoidance with no real answers to how they will protect the environment. It seems a bit light with lots of statements for example, Noise and blasting – They state the Predicted project noise levels do not exceed the Voluntary Land Acquisition and Mitigation Policy criteria at any receiver location. I once worked in an open cut mine and drill and blast operations are unbearable. Drilling is continuous for long periods and extremely noisy. So, to state that sleep disturbance is not anticipated during the morning shoulder period between 5am and 7am, as emissions from maximum noise events are predicted to satisfy the maximum noise trigger levels is bewildering in my mind. What about people that do shift work and are possibly trying to sleep during the day while drilling is conducted or the people that are working close by on their land having to put up with the consistent drilling noise. So, Bluestone's 2-hour noise sleep disturbance window explanation is a tad narrow to me.

The noise could be a major impact for myself as I am a musician and music producer that relies on the peace and quiet of the area to produce quality audio and an income. I am concerned that the drilling will be heard and felt at my residence.

The roads they designate for haulage and the bridge over the Hunter River at Elderslie will be damaged and degraded by the heavy haul trucks. The traffic congestion at the bridge and along the haul route will be felt and significant.

The dust given off from the site especially on strong westerly windy days I believe will be considerable. I have a bird's eye view of the open cut mines in the Hunter, and I can see

who is getting top soiled on any one day. The EIS does not implicate how they will deal with air quality only to state that appropriate air quality management measures to minimise air emissions will be in place. What would they be?

Airbourne diesel particulate and silica dust is another of my concerns as I am asthmatic and fear the air quality which is already bad in the Hunter Valley will just become worse.

The roads proposed for haulage generally have cyclists riding on any given day and there are pedestrians and school children waiting for school buses in the morning and afternoon. There is a huge safety concern as many haul truck drivers will travel with considerable speed to get the maximum loads in in one day.

The hunter river is already impacted by salinity problems caused by open cut coal mining operations, and even though it is a gravel quarry it is still classed as an open cut mine. Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Act 2013: Quarry sites are monitored by the NSW Resources Regulator. Have Bluestone complied with this act and registered? This is a requirement before mining begins. As far as I can see they have only considered the following from their original application or maybe I have missed something.

1.3.2.18 If the person proposing to take the action is a corporation, provide details of the corporation's environmental policy and planning framework.

“Now remember the Environment is a major consideration in WH&S”

Their words: Bluestone Hardrock Pty Ltd is a newly formed company created to extract the resource from the Bluestone Hardrock Quarry Project, the company does not currently have a detailed environmental policy or framework. However, the Project will be regulated by the NSW EP&A Act development consent that will include requirements for a Environmental Management Strategy and comprehensive set of management plans to manage the potential community and environmental impacts of the Project.

So, Quarry sites are monitored by the NSW Resources Regulator. I would like to know how they intend to satisfy continual regulation of the environmental impacts.

To conclude. I don't believe that this project will generate an abundance of employment in the area, nor will it bring money to the local economy. The only winner out of this will be Bluestone and the environment and community will be worse off if this project gets approval to operate.

Sincerely

Concerned Resident of Stanhope