

Hillydale  
871 Inverary Road  
Bungonia, NSW 2580  
16 February, 2018

**Re: Proposed expansion to the operations of the Ardmore Park Quarry**

The proposed expansion as detailed in the supporting documentation provided by Multiquip Quarries should not be given approval to proceed.

The proposed expansion of the operations of the Ardmore Park Quarry will increase the negative impact of the existing operations. The requested extension to the operating hours represents a 45% increase on weekday hours and a 50% increase on the Saturday hours. Far from avoiding "lifestyle" factors as the proposal claims, the addition of large quarry trucks on the local roads so early in the morning and so late into the night will mean that locals will have next to no relief from the noise generated by the quarry's activities. We have read the noise impact report in detail and while its authors have concluded that there are no negative impacts to the area's auditory amenity from either the current or the proposed expansion, as a resident living within 2500m of the quarry I can categorically state the it has had already had a substantially negative effect on the acoustic qualities of our property. Prior to its operations we rarely encountered mechanical noise. We now hear the quarry's operations very clearly on a daily basis, including from inside parts of our house. This is particularly noticeable on days with a westerly wind (most days) or calm days. During winter the noise from the quarry is particularly and intrusively audible. While this noise generated is not so loud as to be a health hazard it is still a cause of angst due to the volume, duration and type of noise. Instead of the natural sounds of a rural property we now experience the equivalent of living in town with constant background mechanical and traffic noise. Whilst this noise may well be below the regulatory thresholds it has had a significant impact on our enjoyment of the environment of our property. The proposed increases in operating hours and the increase in extraction area, increase in extraction volumes and the relocation of the hard rock processing equipment likely to mean that our opportunities to enjoy a rural acoustic environment will in effect be severely limited.

In addition, the increased operating hours will result in heavy vehicles on what is still a narrow and winding road (even after the poor quality widening,) during the hours of darkness, especially in winter. Far from improving the lifestyle amenity of residents and locals it will substantially increase the safety risk to other road users. Additionally, it is likely to result in increases in deaths to native animals such as wombats and kangaroos from collisions with the trucks. The applicant states that they will use the additional haulage hours to avoid using the local roads at certain periods, yet there is nothing in the application stating how this will occur and there is no mechanism for this to be enforced.

Because the quarry is not yet in full production (as I understand it) the applicant has not yet demonstrated that they are able to operate their quarry according to the conditions of the original consent so residents have not yet experienced consequences of its operating at its original capacity. The applicant should be required to demonstrate that they can and will comply with the existing conditions before begin granted their request for such a large expansion of their activities. The applicant states that no additional jobs will be created as a result of the expansion so the purported economic benefits are no greater than if the original conditions are adhered to. The applicant makes reference to no specific additional economic opportunities, either locally or within the wider region

or state that can only be realised if the expansion is permitted. Based on the information in the submission the expansion delivers no additional benefits to the community or the local economy but does potentially have many negative impacts on the rural amenity of the area.

Other residents of the area whose properties are located adjacent to the quarry have reported negative impacts on their access to groundwater resources. The requested increase in annual production is likely to exacerbate these issues. While quarry has already received approval to operate, it should not be permitted to increase its impacts such that pre-existing rural business activities are adversely impacted.

We have no confidence whatsoever that the people assessing this application will pay much if any attention to submissions like ours because it appears in the current environment that non-quantifiable, non-economic detriments caused by projects such as this are given little weight when determining whether projects like this are approved. The amenity of our property and our experience of living and working on it has already been negatively affected by the operations of the quarry well before it is in full production. The proposed expansion will only reduce that even further and without providing any additional jobs or economic benefits. It is also likely to make the local roads much less safe during the early morning and late evenings due to the additional truck movements. This expansion should not be granted.

Cath Henshall

Robert Brown