

The Director, Coal and Quarry Assessments
Planning and Assessment
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
GPO Box 39, Sydney NSW 2001

Public Submission for SSD – 7293, Sancrox Quarry Expansion Project.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to state my objections to the **SSD – 7293, Sancrox Quarry Expansion Project on the following grounds:**

1. In an RU1 zone (RU1 - Primary Production under the 2011 Port Macquarie Hastings Local Environmental Plan) the quarry industry should not operate, therefore should not expand either, and the two proposed additional industries should not be permitted.
2. The SSD designation, apparently applied because of the size of the proposal, is inappropriate and should not be used to vary the terms of RUI zoning to allow the project.
3. The zoning of the subject land should not be changed because it accurately reflects the rural quality of its location, history and future. The quarry has outlived its approval which should not be renewed or extended. The surrounding area is now on a rural residential trajectory accommodating native plant communities and native animals.
4. The claim that lack of alternative sources or outlets justifies the expansion, is not supported: e.g. Hanson operates Ready Mix Concrete at 14 Blackbutt Road, Port Macquarie. Hanson is only one part of the global Heidelberg Cement Group, the largest supplier of aggregates and third largest supplier of cement in the world.
5. The proposed expansion would produce environmental threats and degradation, i.e. noise pollution due to operation 24 hours, seven days a week; pollution of air, water and soil emitted from materials stored and handled on-site and from vehicles; visual pollution.
6. The project will have serious and irreversible environmental impacts on the subject land by clearing of 43ha of native forest, of which 0.55ha is a Threatened Ecological Community *Subtropical coastal floodplain forest*.

7. Clearing will impact on the 27 Threatened Species that live there (including koalas) and destroy a critical vegetation corridor that allows animals to travel through the Sancrox area.

8. The rapidly declining local koala population was 2000 but fires in the past month (including Lake Innes Nature Reserve) killed hundreds of koalas, decimated their gene pool and further reduced their shrinking habitat. This has increased the value of koala habitat on the subject land, being regionally significant koala habitat according to the NSW Government.

9. The Biodiversity Strategy adopted by Port Macquarie Hastings Council (PMHC) must govern decision-making rather than information from the Sancrox Quarry Expansion Project proponent, which includes a biodiversity assessment report that is not current, relies on insufficient fieldwork and fails to acknowledge historical records of koalas on the subject land.

10. For the public, information and opportunities to make informed comment have been inadequate. PMHC shares this concern and at its meeting on 20.11.19 voted unanimously to ask the Member for Port Macquarie, to request that the project be put on hold pending further detailed analysis and public scrutiny.

I declare that:

I have made no reportable political donations in the past two years.

I agree to the Department publishing my submission on its website in accordance with The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment Privacy Policy

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