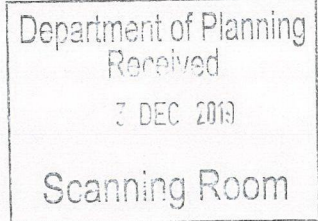




30 November 2019

The Director, Resource Assessment
Planning Assessment 9946
The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
GPO Box 39
Sydney, NSW, 2001



Dear Sir,

Objection to New Quarry Application by Hanson Heidelberg at Sancrox, NSW (SSD 9946)

I am writing to you to express my concerns and opposition in relation to an application by Hanson Heidelberg to expand the existing quarry and open a new pit at Sancrox, near Port Macquarie.

I am the Owner of Lot 11, Le Clos Sancrox, part of an estate of 51 lots situated just west of the Pacific Highway near Port Macquarie.

I am aware of the views expressed in the Environmental Impact Statement provided by Hanson (ERM Ref: 0418291) and have also reviewed other documents relating to this matter. On this basis, I have some serious concerns.

1. Environmental Damage

I understand that a large proportion of the area in which the pit is to be constructed comprises koala habitat, with a core 'high use' area at the centre of the area. This is very concerning to me, especially considering the widespread threat to koala habitats and the damage inflicted by the recent bushfires in the same area. I understand that the EIS erroneously understates (by 80%) the number of hollow bearing habitat trees that will be destroyed (compared to prior studies). It is difficult to see how the quarry could be developed and operated without seriously impacting the welfare of koalas at the nearby Billabong Koala Sanctuary (less than 1 km away).

I am also concerned that the new quarry will destroy an endangered biological community corridor, and significant swamp oak and mixed eucalypt open forest areas. The environmental costs of Hanson's proposal are simply unacceptable.

2. Social and Economic Impact

In addition to the significant environmental damage that would result from the approval of this quarry, it is also a private project that by its nature and impact, will seriously compromise the potential to develop the surrounding Port Macquarie hinterland for community uses.

My land is part of an estate (Le Clos Sancrox) that is currently the subject of an application to Port Macquarie Hastings Council to rezone the land from Rural to Residential. The application is subject to (appropriately) rigorous standards. It is an acknowledged fact that there is a serious shortage of housing in this area, and the residential development of this area will provide some much needed, affordable housing blocks to meet the growth of Port Macquarie over the next few years.

It seems incongruous then, that a project involving the environmental degradation noted above together with 24-hour blasting and a large increase in truck movements (with the inevitable dust and noise), should be permitted in the absence of any compelling economic argument and in contravention of the environmental standards that apply to other developers.

I appreciate your attention to this matter and I look forward to your response in due course.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Graham Easton". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Graham Easton

Owner – Lot 11, Le Clos Sancrox