

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

**Re: Public Submission for SSD – 7293**

Dear Sir,

I wish to submit my objection to the above development application.

**My Name:** Michael Lyons

**My Address:** 8 Granite Street Port Macquarie NSW 2444

Applicant: Hanson Construction Materials Pty Ltd and Application No: SSD – 7293

Sancrox Quarry Expansion Project

I object to the proposed development for the following reasons:

1. The project includes the clearing of 43.1 hectares of native forest vegetation, 0.55 ha of which is identified as the threatened ecological community Subtropical coastal floodplain forest (NR117).
2. The native vegetation to be cleared provides habitat for a wealth of unique biodiversity including seven identified threatened species of native animals. The proposed development removes hollow-bearing trees, which may provide potential breeding habitat and roost sites for a number of arboreal mammals, microchiropteran bats and bird species and the removal of foraging habitat for native fauna. (Ref: DA, Annex C, Biodiversity Assessment Report).
3. The environmental impact would be serious and irreversible. The destruction of habitat containing a documented ,“total of 27 threatened species, including 17 birds and nine mammals including five microchiropteran bats”. (Ref: DA, Annex C, Biodiversity .Assessment Report).
4. The proposed “ecosystem credits” system of payments by the developer would not compensate for the serious and irreversible impact on the environment.
5. The proposed use of “ecosystem credits” to offset the proposed loss of the threatened and vulnerable flora and fauna (Ref: DA, Annex C, Biodiversity Assessment Report). Instead, native vegetation should be protected, given that Australia is experiencing an extinction crisis with some 964 of the 1,250 Australian terrestrial animal species currently listed as ‘Threatened’ and (Ref. REF: <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/native-vegetation/why-is-native-vegetation-important>).
6. The effected native vegetation is of national and international significance and quarry expansion could take place on existing cleared land.
7. The proposed clearing destroys an identified “critical link and vegetation connectivity in the immediate, and the Greater Sancrox Structure Plan, eliminating traverses by animals south-north through the centre of the Development Site”, thereby impacting animal movement, breeding and genetic diversity (Ref: DA, Annex C, Biodiversity Assessment Report).
8. Appendix C ‘Biodiversity Report’ is four years old. Fieldwork was conducted for an inadequate period of time, and conducted by scientists, not Conservation Biologists.
9. The field work conducted in 2015 was insufficient. A major flaw of the EISis that it fails to record koalas at six locations and the presence of habitat critical to the endangered Swift Parrot. (Refs: Office of Environment and Heritage Records 2008-2013; Ref. DA Annex C).

10. The recent and ongoing catastrophic bushfires have killed an estimated 350 koalas. Other injured and now homeless koalas may have moved onto the proposed development site. Appendix C 'Biodiversity Report' identifies the land to be koala habitat.
11. The Hydrology report identifies water onsite, that is currently supporting native flora and fauna, is to be diverted to industrial use. (Ref: DA, Annex C, Biodiversity Assessment Report).
12. The proposed land clearing and the removal of native vegetation would result in soil erosion, land degradation and salinity and would threaten water quality with potential pollution to the north and west alluvial flood plains of the Hastings River and Haydons Creek. (Ref: DA, Annex C, Biodiversity Assessment Report).
13. Native vegetation in NSW stores a significant amount of carbon. The deforestation and forest degradation caused by this proposed development would increase global greenhouse gas emissions and the consequent perilous global as well as local impacts. The proposed works impact on Aboriginal heritage sites including an identified Scar Tree and ceremonial site considered to have high cultural significance identified in the Heritage Report (DA, Annex D, Heritage Assessment).
14. No road safety audit has been undertaken for the roads effected by the increase in heavy vehicle trips.
15. No consideration has been given to the consequences of Hastings River Drive being closed to traffic due to flooding.
16. No consideration is given to the adequacy of road shoulder width/strength, clear zones and bridge width/condition on Hastings River Drive with the substantial increase in heavy vehicle numbers by day and night, noting that Hastings River Drive remains a heavily trafficked route for travel north of Port Macquarie.
17. The substantially increased number of trucks using Winery Drive would have significant impacts on the amenity of visitors to Cassegrain Winery, a well-known tourist attraction.