

# Ironstone Community Action Group Inc. (ICAG Inc.)

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31<sup>th</sup> January 2022

DPIE/IPC & Minister Rob Stokes  
C/- James McDonough  
Team Leader  
P (02) 9585 6313 | E [james.mcdonough@dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:james.mcdonough@dpie.nsw.gov.au)

**Attention: DPIE James & Jesse,**

Dear Sirs/Madams,

**Subject: Objection to proposed quarry SSD11591659 - Email (1) ICAG Inc. Community letters**

Please accept ICAG Inc. Community Members letters attached:-

- Margarete Ritchie
- Linda Pereboeff
- Gail & Paul Foster
- Denis O'Donohue
- LB
- John McKenzie
- Steven and Bronwyn Larsen
- Susan Pereboeff
- John and Wendy Kopko
- Anonymous Objector 1.

The hard copy of all these letters will be posted tomorrow via Australia Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022. Please do not upload these scanned documents to DPIE website from my scanned versions. Please wait until you can scan them with your equipment.

There are also, ICAG Inc. Community members, Groups & Business, who "claimed submitter's rights" and their objection letters are still coming.

Thank you to the DPIE Staff for accepting ICAG Inc. Community Members letters and thank you for your patience in waiting to receive these letters in hard copy.

Yours sincerely



Amanda Albury  
ICAG Inc. Secretary  
(M) 0403 645 5210

Thu, Jan 27, 5:57 AM (4 days ago)

## **Letter to oppose the proposed quarry SSD11591659.**

This is a submission in support of the residents who would be most affected by the establishment of a quarry and haulage road at Deep Creek. It is not a "technical" response. It is a response from a community that has experienced an expanding quarry.

1. I speak from lived experience as I live on Brandy Hill Drive which is the major haulage route for the trucks from Hanson's Brandy Hill quarry. The main issues for all residents living near quarries include
2. Pollution, in particular dust and water
3. Road and production noise
4. Health, both physical and mental health.

Residents are already grieving the loss of the habitat they chose for themselves. The quiet rural settings, lifestyle, businesses-air bnb, wildlife carers, retirement. They are fighting for themselves as well as for the environment that is being carved up for one quarry after another. They have every right to conduct the rural businesses that they have embarked on and these endeavours are as important to the state as any quarry enterprise.

The lived experience is real and not imagined. I can see and hear the anguish and disbelief of the residents of the Deep Creek area. It is similar to the stories we have in the area surrounding the Brandy Hill quarry. It affects people differently. Some experience the physical vibration of blasting and crushing, the constant noise and vibration of the main crushers and this is way into the night when the rural landscape is usually silent. Sound reports will tell you that the ambient noise of frogs and crickets is greater than the quarry noise or that of trucks. That is what we expect in a rural area and NOT the sound of a crusher! Or the constant rumbling, crashing and clanging of either full or unladen trucks.

Other residents experience nose bleeds associated with excessive dust and diesel particulates in the air.

Residents rely on tank water for their everyday needs. This is usually collected from the run-off from roofs which are covered in the dust from the quarry operations. This dust contains many elements which may affect health. This is one of the main concerns of people living in Seaham, especially those with young children.

The depression and anxiety are not imagined. They are real. The term solastalgia encompasses all of this. The loss of something you treasure, your environment and there is nothing you can do about it.

For the residents most affected by this proposal they stand to lose everything whereas the proponent of this quarry stands to gain a very lucrative slice of the pie which is the market place.

Our environment is raped, the animals are killed or displaced. We have the proof of dead koalas and wallabies as road kill in our dealing with the Hanson quarry expansion. For Brandy Hill, the conditions set down by the IPC included no truck traffic between the hours of 6pm and 6am, the hours that native animals usually are active. And also the time when residents should be able to enjoy their peace and quiet and uninterrupted sleep. At the very least the residents of the area surrounding the Deep Creek proposal and those on the haulage routes should have the same rules applied to them.

And the very people who will win from this, those living in the regions the product is destined for, are the people who come to visit the rural areas being decimated. They are the ones who would visit the air bnb's for the landscape, the animals, the environment should they still exist.

There is also the cumulative effect of the quarrying businesses. There are 9 quarries within a 15 km radius of Limeburners Creek. All contribute to habitat loss for vulnerable species and the loss of lifestyle for residents and increased danger on our roads every day and night with over 3000 fully laden trucks and another 3000 empty trucks using our rural roads and highways daily!

There are already concerns being expressed about the state of The Bucketts Way. This is a road notorious for its poor alignment, it's narrow old bridges and its extremely dangerous intersection with the Pacific Highway. No major development that consigns heavy truck traffic onto this road should be allowed. The road itself does not meet the National Standards for roads that carry heavily laden trucks of over 50 tonnes.

I urge you to oppose this quarry proposal as it does not meet the very basic social standards that residents should expect.

Margarete Ritchie.  
Brandy Hill.

**Neil and Margarete <ritchies15@bigpond.com>**

Jan 27, 2022, 8:28 PM

To: DPIE C/- ICAG Inc. Secretary

I am writing this submission to make clear my objection to this proposed quarry SSD11591659.

My reasons for opposition are as follows:-

1. There are already many other quarries in close proximity to this proposed quarry. This appears to be a money making scheme for a few, namely the family businesses of Ironstone Developments P/L and Woodbury Civil P/L, and sadly the continued destruction of wildlife habitats and our natural environment, which directly impact quality of life for humans, including my children and their future living environment.
2. This proposed quarry site must not be approved due to the fact that it is surrounded by by hundreds of people living in a 360 degree radius, and, that this area has been labelled a Greenfield area. People move to these areas to get away from noise pollution, air pollution and destroyed natural habitat. Question - When was the Application and Exploration licence approved for this proposed quarry and by whom?
3. This quarry will kill wildlife in undocumented (!!) numbers, with impacts to headwaters of Deep Creek. Deep Creek will be dug-up, clean water will be taken out and dirty water holding dams will overflow directly to Deep Creek, on-flowing to Karuah River, and out into Port Stephens likely impacting the Oyster Farm industry and Port Stephens tourism. If Deep Creek is a zoned 'protected creek' how can this quarry even be in consideration anyway?
4. I have been informed that quarries are classed by government as extractive industries and as such bring zero dollars to State government revenue, and that councils of the area 'broker' a deal with the company?!
5. We have a right to live in peace on our properties without offensive noise, dust, blasting, and fumes, all of which affect ones mental and physical health. Possible water tank contamination should be a high priority of any council, particularly in our present climate conditions. This should be something that takes precedence over a few benefiting from digging up the earth to sell gravel!!!
6. Dust from operating quarries is already known to impact physical health causing, and/or exacerbating asthma, nose bleeds, sinus and respiratory issues as well as impacting peace and harmony by seeing, smelling and hearing the destruction of our beautiful natural, living environment on a daily basis.
7. This area is a CORE KOALA HABITAT !! We are all aware that our precious Australian wildlife including the iconic koala, platypus, and greater glider have nowhere to go and are at risk of extinction or ongoing declines unless we take urgent action by stopping greedy companies and blatant money grab projects.
8. The proposed quarry is not in keeping with the homes and properties in a 360 degree radius, as well as Eco-tourism businesses. Some homes will be less than 1km away from proposed open cut pit and closer to proposed haul road !!!!!
9. Blasting times and events are not clearly stated and either way are not appropriate for such close proximity to private properties. Noise from crushing has been known to sound like jet planes causing vibrations and shaking of houses and vehicle noise and air pollution will be ongoing.

9. Our road infrastructure cannot cope with this increased presence of work vehicles and the many large haul trucks. Lives will be put at risk from transport issues as well as from the above listed human health detriments.

Finally, the "Precautionary Principal" to preserve the entire area and downstream Deep Creek and Karuah River Great Lakes - Port Stephens Marine Park, due to the heritage value of the natural environment in a dollars preservation value versus approved destruction, must be adopted. Approval of this proposed project is not justified. It is for a select few. Such a quarry will have many negative impacts on the majority of people, and the future generations must take precedence over money. We are now at a stage, historically, environmentally, climatically that we must think of our future generations and our future natural environments first and foremost.

Please, I implore you to stand on the right side of history and stop the proposed quarry.

Yours sincerely,

Linda Pereboeff

Booral

11.1.2022

To Department of Planning, Industry and  
Environment

From: Gail and Paul Foster.

64 Old Coach Rd

Limeburners Creek NSW 2324

Re: Proposed Quarry SSD 11591659

We are writing to you asking that you do not approve the development of this proposed quarry. First there are hundreds of people already living in close proximity to this proposed quarry, from Limeburners Creek, Allworth Boral Strand to name a few, who would all be impacted by increased heavy trucks movements, noise and dust pollution. All these small rural communities along with many more people that use the Bucketts Way daily know how dangerous the road will become being that it is the only road the trucks will be using and it is totally inadequate now for light traffic. The small piece of road that has been upgraded already, looks alright for now but not for long they will soon realize that it will be inadequate and dangerous along with the upgrade at the Pacific Highway and Bucketts Way intersection. The traffic build up there is becoming worse especially holiday times.

Our small community is already surrounded by six quarries already demolishing bushland that house wildlife which we are seeing dead on side of road all too often.

Has anyone from the D.P.I.E. ever bothered to drive the Bucketts way road, take a look at our bushlands that will

be destroyed look around our  
waterways at Kanihah which will  
probably be a dumping ground  
for waste water from this quarry?  
probably not, just as this letter  
opposing the development of another  
quarry will never read.

Yours sincerely.

Gaul Foster J. Foster.

Paul Foster P. Foster

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**Allworth objection to the Quarry**

1 message

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**Denis O'Donohue** <denisodo@icloud.com>  
To: icag.inc@gmail.com

Mon, Jan 17, 2022 at 5:36 PM

As a resident of Allworth I wish to register my very strong objection to any further development of extractive industries such as the Deep Creek quarry in proximity to the Karuah river. These are my reasons:

1. The river was pristine 50 years ago when I built my house. Gradually, over time the oysters and fish started to decline. The oysters receded down river 3 km and have never returned.
2. Because the oysters declined so dramatically so did many of the fish that feed on and around the oysters.
3. This all coincided with the introduction of coal mining and quarrying between Gloucester and Allworth and mine waste water overflow and sedimentation from various quarries reaching the river.
4. Also there are many old chicken farms on the water courses leading into the Karuah river which further exacerbated the heavy pollution and sedimentation of the river.
5. The council own reports in the River Health and have concluded the Karuah River is classified as critical. How is it possible to approve more air, water, sound and traffic pollution under these circumstances.

Denis O'Donohue

[23 Stroud Street Allworth](#)

0407149435

10th January 2022

Re: Proposed quarry - (SSD11591659)

To Whom it May Concern

"Wallaburra" at 151 Forest Glen Rd Limeburners Creek is a place of tranquility. It has been developed and nurtured for the past 18 years as a

1. Wildlife corridor
2. Wildlife sanctuary
3. A carbon capture space - grass root level attempt.
4. Developed as a place of beauty for enjoyment.

It is envisaged that the workings of the proposed quarry and the trucking which would occur would have a serious detrimental impact on every aspect of this development. Ramifications also for residential properties neighbouring.

Raised noise levels, air pollution etc would destroy the peace and wellbeing of the occupants, the animals, the flora and wildlife in general at the property.

Because of this I Request you do NOT approve the application for the proposed quarry.

Yours faithfully LB.

Sun, Jan 23, 2022 at 11:25 AM

C/- ICAG Inc. Secretary Amanda Albury

John Mckenzie  
66 Waterview Rd  
Clarence Town NSW 2321

**To whom it may concern – DPIE**

I hereby object to the proposed quarry at deep Creek (SSD11591659)

I supply the following reasons, the destruction of a peaceful rural and bushland setting once gone can never return. Noise and airborne particles from blasting and crushing will adversely affect the area to a radius of several kilometres causing loss of amenity and health risks. The value people place on the area for living and recreation will be forever diminished. Heavy truck movements will be detrimental to the local roads leading to more frequent truck movements and increased damage to local roads. The quarry provides a lot of negatives for the local area while providing little to no positives. The risk to sensitive wetlands downstream to Karuah River and Port Stephens is too great a risk to take. The risk of sediment in heavy rainfall could jeopardise delicate ecological systems.

John Mckenzie  
johnmck750@gmail.com

Mon, Jan 24 2022, 4:31 PM

C/- ICAG Inc. Secretary Amanda Albury

## Objection to the State Significant Development Application - Deep Creek Quarry SSD11591659

**To whom it may concern – DPIE,**

We are lodging an objection to the State Significant Development for Deep Creek Quarry.

We are lodging our objection as the approval of this quarry will have significant impacts on;

- native flora and fauna,
- extra costs to Port Stephens residents as money will be required for various roads maintenance and repairs,
- increased safety risks of people using the various Port Stephens roads that will be required to handle the extra truck movements,
- water quality in the Karuah river which may be detrimental to the oyster industry and
- potential risk to the Nelson Bay Marine area

The applicant "Ironstone Quarries" may highlight that this development will lead to extra employment but there already many quarries in the lower Hunter to supply the building industry with products at competitive commercial rates.

The applicant will also promise that their trucks will only travel over designated roads but they will not have control over external or contracted delivery vehicles. There will be extra traffic on East Seaham Road and Italia Road which are not able to handle the extra heavy vehicle traffic. The roads are also used by school buses that would have difficulty passing the B Double trucks let alone when stopping to drop of local children to the many residences along each of these roads.

Kind regards,

Steven and Bronwyn Larsen

348 East Seaham Road,

East Seaham 2324

Telephone 49886086

Mobile 0488023234

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my objection to the proposed quarry at Deep Creek, Limeburners Creek NSW. My objection is based in the fact that as a resident of Booral, approximately 15km from the proposed site as the crow flies, as well as my qualifications in Conservation and Land Management (bush regeneration) and BSc (Sustainable Resource Development). I have adequate understanding of and have completed EIS' as part of my degree, and I found the management measures suggested were insufficient to deal with the environmental, health and numerous other impacts this proposed quarry would cause to the community.

Firstly, the proposed site is located on the upstream portion of a major creek system, Deep Creek, which is protected as part of the Karuah River Great Lakes-Port Stephens Marine Park. The proposed management strategy, wastewater dams situated right up to the edge of riparian vegetation, are likely to overflow directly into the creek polluting the rest of the downstream system. The creek is an integral part of the Limeburners Creek, Karuah, and Port Stephens communities, and the pollution of it would be a great disservice to the people living and working in this area.

The large scale bushland clearing and blasting will have a significant impact on the threatened flora and fauna recognised in the EIS. The management strategies outlined by the EIS will in no way mitigate these impacts. Installing some nestboxes to replace the hundreds of habitat trees (with hollows), not to mention the hundreds more that would be cleared that provide crucial habitat for the threatened bird and bat species recorded, or the delicate native groundcovers and mid-layer vegetation that is crucial for many more native species, including the endangered New Holland Mouse. Although the EIS states that it would limit clearing as much as practicable, the site maps show that the development would require clearing much of the moderate-good-high quality bushland.

Then there are the health impacts. The quarry is within close vicinity to a number of residential properties that would be directly impacted by the dust, and blasting fumes. It is well known that dust from mines and quarries may cause asthma, nose bleeds and other respiratory issues, and silica dust may cause silicosis. The noise from the

blasting and machinery movements may also cause damage to peoples hearing, impact people's ability to work from home and their livelihoods, and generally cause disturbances and discomfort to people's home lives. The noise impacts will also undoubtedly disturb the threatened and endangered wildlife, not just within the boundaries of the proposed quarry, but extending to kilometres away.

As a resident of Booral who travels along the Bucketts Way frequently each week to go to access shops and work, the increased number of truck movements on the roads would be a major inconvenience, and potential safety hazard. The Limeburners Creek bridge is not wide enough to allow room for a quarry truck and another vehicle, meaning that cars would have to stop to allow the quarry trucks to pass, a dangerous situation on a 90km/hr winding road. The car lineup at intersection at the Bucketts Way and the Pacific Highway would also greatly increase, which already can see cars lining up 800m from the intersection of weekends and holidays. Adding a couple of hundred truck movements (contradictory measures of truck movements, and hours of operation in the EIS) would further add to this issue.

It is my opinion that there are no merits based reasons to approve this proposed quarry. I strongly object to the proposed quarry at Deep Creek.

Sincerely,

Susanna Pereboeff

## Oppose proposed quarries

Tue, Jan 25, 2022 at 12:24 AM Wendy Kopko <[wendykopko@gmail.com](mailto:wendykopko@gmail.com)> wrote:

C/- Amanda Albury ICAG Inc. ref proposed quarry SSD11591659

We oppose and object to any Deep creek/valley, Limeburners Creek and Karuah River quarries. The science on impacts to waterways, native animals and vegetation proves it to be contrary to environmental protection as well as major impacts to locals and road surfaces and traffic congestion. There would be minimal extra local employment and the disruption to the point of disintegration of a peaceful rural life for residents and livestock would be catastrophic. Hundreds of thousands of dollars are spent on these rural properties and these quarries jeopardise their continuance. We will seek legal remedy should we be adversely affected should they be wrongfully approved.

Mr John Kopko and Mrs Wendy Kopko  
1511 The Bucketts Way Allworth NSW 2425

25<sup>th</sup> January 2022

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN - DPIE/IPC and Midcoast Council,

**Subject: Objection to; (DPIE/IPC - SSD11591659 proposed quarry plus related proposed 'Haul Roads' and onto The Bucketts Way, Limeburners Creek) and (Midcoast Council DA2021/2338 proposed Mechanical Workshop), due to material adverse impacts to residents, local business including Wallaburra Wildlife Reserve, both DA's would cause unacceptable levels of noise, dust, fumes, vehicle numbers/congestion on local roads and health impacts.**

C/- Amanda Albury ICAG Inc. Secretary, 151 Forest Glen Road, Limeburners Creek (M) 0403 645 521 (email [icag.inc@gmail.com](mailto:icag.inc@gmail.com)). I can be contacted through ICAG Inc. Secretary.

The purpose of this email is to lodge an objection to the following proposed developments due to the adverse impact this will have on Wallaburra Wildlife Reserve and property at 151 Forest Glen Road Limeburners Creek, neighbouring properties and surrounding areas.

- Proposed Quarry (SSD11591659) related Haul Roads and (onto The Bucketts Way) - DPIE and/or IPC
- Proposed Mechanical Workshop (DA2021/2338) – Midcoast Council

DPIE/IPC and Midcoast Council & must refuse these development applications, because of the adverse impact to the property at 151 Forest Glen Road, Limeburners Creek and related Wallaburra Wildlife Reserve, surrounding neighbours & area, which will be adversely impacted by the proposed mine or mechanical workshop from, dust, heavy vehicles, operating machinery noise and mechanical workshops or any other businesses producing noise, fumes, vehicle numbers, turning the street industrial.

I have stayed at the above mentioned Limeburners Creek property and found it to be a peaceful, tranquil wildlife area that is materially at risk from these proposed developments.

Also worthy of note are the contradictory operating parameters and scope for the mine and related works, contained in the current development application documents and wonder why the DPIE office appears to be overlooking these obvious deficiencies. Midcoast Council with the proposed mechanical workshop business seeing approval to operate 5 days a week for one customer vehicle per day is highly unlikely.

I would expect that cursory due diligence from the offices of (DPIE/IPC and Midcoast Council), would have identified these deficiencies and would have declined to even consider the mine's application outright. Likewise Midcoast Council's refusal for the inappropriate DA of the proposed mechanical workshop, is not in keeping with the amenity of Forest Glen Road Limeburners Creek.

Approval of these applications will have a catastrophic impact on the environment, surrounding areas, animals and private residences, many of whom depend on the collection of rainwater in tanks that will be poisoned by dust particles originating from this proposed mine and transit of related heavy vehicles & cars etc. emitting diesel & petrol fumes. Likewise the proposed mechanical workshop would also adversely impact surrounding properties with vehicle fumes from cars, trucks, heavy vehicles, driving into Forest Glen Road, a (no through road) of private residential homes, in a rural subdivision in bushland.

Regards  
MB

Note: This email is being sent anonymously C/- ICAG Inc. to avoid potential repercussions from DPIE, Council and representatives related to these two development applications.

## **Ironstone Developments Pty Ltd Proposal for a new hard rock quarry in the Limeburners Creek area of NSW (2022)**

Notice of Objection: Glenn Albrecht PhD, 16 Wallaby Close, Duns Creek (Port Stephens Shire NSW).

### **General Comments**

This proposal to extract up to 500,000 tonnes per annum of hard rock aggregate products, construction of new intersection and access road, workshop, stockpiles, weigh bridge, power line and office, represents one of the most egregious examples of what the ecologist, William Odum (after Kahn) called the "the tyranny of small decisions". Despite this development being State Significant with an expectation of assessment of cumulative impacts, it adds to the size and number of degrading actions undertaken in the affected region of the Mid-Coast Council, Dungog Council and Port Stephens Shire in the form of mining and quarries. Taken collectively, these individual decisions are exercising a 'tyranny' over place, people and biodiversity. As explained in the Abstract of Odum's famous paper:

*Economist Alfred E. Kahn's premise of "the tyranny of small decisions" is applicable to environmental issues. Examples of so-called "small decision effects" range from loss of prime farmland and acid precipitation to mismanagement of the Florida Everglades. A holistic rather than reductionist perspective is needed to avoid the undesirable, cumulative effects of small decisions. (Environmental Degradation and the Tyranny of Small Decisions, William E. Odum, BioScience, Volume 32, Issue 9, October 1982, Pages 728–729).*

More specifically, the very idea that a miner could mine in close proximity to the riparian zone of Deep Creek without causing major harm to it and more downstream negative impacts is an indication that this area is to become yet another 'sacrifice zone' in the name of 'mal-development'.

That Deep Creek, below the proposed mining zone, runs through the Karuah National Park is yet another indication that the proponent or any consenting authority who thinks this outcome is acceptable in sustainability terms, has not thought through the consequences of the activity of mining to any meaningful extent.

That there are numerous other hard rock quarries approved, expanding or in development application phase in the Mid-Coast Council, Dungog and Port Stephens Shire indicates that the "tyranny of small decisions" is alive and well in NSW. Each one, by itself, does not do massive harm to the total environment, but their cumulative impact does have 'state' and national significance.

### **Biodiversity Impacts**

The local impact, the degradation of the zone affected by mining also impacts on the ecosystem health of Deep Creek and its catchment. That there are rare and endangered plants and animals in this catchment should be enough to prevent this development from going ahead.

With respect to endangered species such as the Koala, there are no so-called 'off-set' locations in NSW available to compensate for the loss of this Koala habitat. Furthermore, as any rehabilitation within the duration of the 30-year mine impacts will not produce any new habitat viable for Koalas, there is a net loss of Koala habitat for a species that has already been described as endangered in NSW. There is also reasonable scepticism that rehabilitation of mine sites is not ever achieved to a satisfactory degree.

Because this proposal violates the principle of interspecies equity, it fails to conform to one of the core objectives of Australia's commitment to Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) namely: "to protect biological diversity and maintain essential ecological processes and life-support systems."

On the same grounds that Justice Preston of the Land and Environment Court of NSW (LEC) rejected the proposed Rocky Hill coal mine at Gloucester: "it is contrary to the principles of ecologically sustainable development because the direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions of the mine will contribute to climate change", this application to mine the Deep Creek and Limeburners Creek area should be rejected on biodiversity and climate change impacts both at the mine site and its downstream consequences as a violation of core sustainability objectives and the principles needed to achieve them.

### **Social Impacts**

In addition to the impacts on flora and fauna, plus the downstream impacts (Karuah River, Port Stephens) there are also major social impacts that make this proposal unacceptable. As is the case with the quarries elsewhere in this LGA, the impact of explosions, dust, noise, truck movements and vibrations constitute an assault on citizens' rights to a reasonable degree of amenity in their location.

Mining machinery, crushers, heavy haulage trucks etc violate this right in ways that cannot be mitigated. With the issue of truck movements, the loss of amenity occurs on all roads used by the trucks and add to the cumulative impact on amenity by the total number of truck movements in the LGA caused only by quarry activity. Add all the other truck movements in the LGA from other heavy industrial activity, and the loss of amenity to all on the trucking routes becomes intolerable.

The many precedents set to the Social Impact Assessment (SIA) of mines by the Bulga Milbrodale Progress Association Inc v Minister for Planning and Infrastructure and Warkworth Mining Limited (2013), then Gloucester Resources Limited v Minister for Planning (2019), are relevant to the assessment of this proposal. With respect to the Rocky Hill decision, Justice Preston concluded:

*In this case, the exploitation of the coal resource in the Gloucester valley would not be a sustainable use and would cause substantial environmental and social harm. The Project would have high visual impact over the life of the mine of about two decades. The Project would cause noise, air and light pollution that will contribute to adverse social impacts. The Project will have significant negative social impacts on people's way of life; community; access to and use of infrastructure, services and facilities; culture; health and wellbeing; surroundings; and fears and aspirations. The Project will cause distributive inequity, both within the current generation and between the current and future generations. (NSW L&EC 2019).*

In addition, with respect to the violation of the ESD principles of inter- and intra-generational equity, Justice Preston included considerations of what I call 'solastalgia' (Albrecht 2005, Albrecht 2007, Albrecht 2019) or the lived experience of negative environmental change, in his assessments. The impact of solastalgia or loss of "sense of place" of the residents impacted by this mine (locally and regionally) were also paramount in the mind of Justice Preston in the rejection of the mine proposal. He reported, regarding the community's expert witness on social impacts:

*Dr Askland observed that the proposed mitigation strategies in the social impact assessment will do nothing to address the social impacts of topophilia and solastalgia. The mitigation strategies are based on a logic that disregards the lived experience of place and the strong*

*emotional bonds that individuals form to their physical environments. Dr Askland considered that the mitigation strategies will in themselves be detrimental in terms of social impacts related to amenity, scenery and sense of place (Askland report, [142]). (NSW L&EC 2019).*

It is now the case that what I call “psychoterratic” (psyche-Earth) (Albrecht 2019) impacts, particularly solastalgia, are accepted component of social impact assessment in NSW. Importantly, this domain of impacts, previously neglected in SIA, is now a possible component of the rejection of development applications. Finally, the impacts of the quarry on Indigenous heritage, are another component of SIA often neglected or ignored and a cause of psychoterratic distress in Indigenous Australians. The violation of ‘sense of place’ is a vital part of the Indigenous experience of the colonisation of Australia. There may well be a solastalgic component to the Indigenous experience and understanding of sense of place. That a successful Aboriginal Land Claim is relevant in the specific location of Deep Creek indicates that their interests should be front and centre in the evaluation of the social impacts of this proposal.

## Conclusion

The application for a hard rock mine by Ironstone Developments Pty Ltd in the vicinity of Deep Creek in the Limeburners Creek area of NSW should be rejected outright. It contributes to the destruction of natural heritage and social amenity via the ‘tyranny of small decisions’. It violates all of the major objectives of ESD and the principles needed to achieve them. In violating all these sustainability values, the proposal, if it is approved, adds to the load of solastalgia experienced by people who are already suffering the effects of negative development and climate change. It would be unconscionable to approve this application in the light of these considerations.

## References:

Albrecht Glenn A. (2019) *Earth Emotions: New Words for a New World*, Ithaca, Cornell University Press.

Albrecht, G, Sartore, G., *et.al.* (2007) Solastalgia: The distress caused by environmental change, *Australasian Psychiatry*. Vol. 15, Special Supplement, pp. 95-98.

Albrecht, Glenn A. (2005). Solastalgia: A New Concept in Human Health and Identity. PAN (Philosophy, Activism, Nature). Issue 3, 41-55.

NSW Land and Environment Court. (2013).

<https://www.caselaw.nsw.gov.au/decision/54a639943004de94513da836>

NSW L&EC (2019)

[https://www.caselaw.nsw.gov.au/decision/5c59012ce4b02a5a800be47f#\\_Toc431221](https://www.caselaw.nsw.gov.au/decision/5c59012ce4b02a5a800be47f#_Toc431221)

Odum, W. Environmental Degradation and the Tyranny of Small Decisions, *BioScience*, Volume 32, Issue 9, October 1982, Pages 728–729.

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Glenn A Albrecht PhD

16 Wallaby Close, Duns Creek, 2321, NSW.

0407209464

Glenn.a.albrecht@gmail.com

# Ironstone Community Action Group Inc. (ICAG Inc.)

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31<sup>th</sup> January 2022

DPIE/IPC & Minister Rob Stokes

C/- James McDonough

Team Leader

P (02) 9585 6313 | E [james.mcdonough@dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:james.mcdonough@dpie.nsw.gov.au)

**Attention: DPIE James & Jesse,**

Dear Sirs/Madams,

**Subject: Objection to proposed quarry SSD11591659 - Email (1) ICAG Inc. Community letters**

Please accept ICAG Inc. Community Member letter attached:-

- Glenn A Albrecht Phd

The hard copy of this letter will be posted tomorrow via Australia Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022. Please do not upload these scanned documents to DPIE website from my scanned versions. Please wait until you can scan this letter with your equipment.

Thank you to the DPIE Staff for accepting ICAG Inc. Community Member letter and for your patience in waiting to receive this letter in hard copy.

Yours sincerely



Amanda Albury

ICAG Inc. Secretary

(M) 0403 645 5210