

Kristina Robinson

From: James McDonough
Sent: Monday, 22 August 2022 9:27 AM
To: Kristina Robinson
Subject: FW: Objection to Hunter Quarries, Karuah East Quarry (Mod-10) – Increase Disturbance Area (MP09_0175-Mod-10)

James McDonough
Team Leader, Resource Assessments

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The Department of Planning and Environment acknowledges that it stands on Aboriginal land.
We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land and we show our respect for elders past, present and emerging through thoughtful and collaborative approaches to our work, seeking to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to providing places in which Aboriginal people are included socially, culturally and economically.

-----Original Message-----

From: scott sledge <scottssledge47@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 17 August 2022 11:35 AM
To: James McDonough <james.mcdonough@dpie.nsw.gov.au>
Cc: Shaunti Sunshine Kiehl 2019 <earthmama007@yahoo.com>
Subject: Objection to Hunter Quarries, Karuah East Quarry (Mod-10) – Increase Disturbance Area (MP09_0175-Mod-10)

14th August 2022
Director Resource Assessments,
Development Assessment,
Department of Planning and Environment
Locked Bag 5022
Parramatta NSW 2124
C/- James McDonough – Team Leader, Resource Assessments Energy, Resources and Industry / Department of Planning & Environment Email:james.mcdonough@dpie.nsw.gov.au
James direct phone number: (02) 9585-6313 Dear Sir/Madam,
Subject: Objection to Hunter Quarries, Karuah East Quarry (Mod-10) – Increase Disturbance Area (MP09_0175-Mod-10).

I want you to know that the natural world is under serious threat and we must see ourselves as part of that, not stand apart and destroy it bit by bit. I fully support the points of objection below, for myself and for the members of Northern Rivers Guardians, Inc.

- I object to the above proposed development Mod-10 and request that NSW Planning Department (DPIE), Ministers, IPC, refuse this development application completely
- * I also object to Mod 1, Mod 2, Mod 8 and Mod 9 that have been approved and yet were not done in a transparent manner as the DPIE did not contact former objectors to Hunter Quarries, yet for Mod-10 these people and community groups (former objectors) were contacted. DPIE should have contacted everyone for all these modifications (1 to 9), including the 5 modifications that have been withdrawn.
- This Mod-10 is on Hilton Grugeon/Hunter Quarries properties that are also remnant natural forest/bushland areas and known Koala and other wildlife species. This bushland is offset areas for Hunter Quarries multiples of pits already operating in this area, including Karuah East Pit, that was approved without anyone knowing about this, as it was masked by a submission period in 2014 where the community was objecting to Hunter Quarries moving North

into another NEW remnant bushland area south of Halloran Road North Arm Cove (North side of Pacific Highway). This was all being done without the general public/community groups, or those property owners already impacted by Hunter Quarries, were all "kept in the dark" and this NEW bushland area approved for a NEW open cut pit was approved in an underhanded and non transparent manner.

* I object to the DPIE/Ministers/companies believing that they do not have to notify people/community groups in advance of a development application with DPIE, regardless of using terms such as "extensions/modifications", they are NEW areas of bushland 'earmarked to be destroyed', therefore people/community, community groups not being advised as former objectors to Hunter Quarries, therefore did not know about these applications and could not lodge their objections. This is all happening in remnant bushland of Blue Rock Close Karuah Shire between the two Hunter Quarries gates, where all pits work independently of each other, and MOD-10 is seeking to do the same and should be rejected entirely.

- The current bushland properties must be protected and the DPIE/IPC/Ministers must reject MOD-10 completely. This remaining remnant forests/bushland on all of Hilton Grugeons properties must be kept intact for wildlife (offset in perpetuity), without ANY impacts including, roads, other infrastructure, including dirty-water holding dams which overflow and run off site and directly into Bulga Creek and/or Yallimbah Creek and into Karuah River Port Stephens/Marine Park.

- MOD-10 is seeking to remove MORE bushland for ("vehicle manoeuvring and parking areas"), overburden dumps bushland removal of ("approximately 7 hectares for additional stockpiling"), 2 storey office building and roads, material processing and storage facilities. This area of bushland should not be handed over for any of the above rock/mining quarry workings, or any other infrastructure, and all vehicles should use internal roads already existing, weighbridge already existing, to The Branch Lane and to the highway.

- If this proposed development is approved, then it will remove more offset bushland/forest areas for wildlife. There is no such thing as:- minor, insignificant, negligible, minimal, impacts, written throughout mining companies documentation, which is both false and offensive to see how many Government Departments use this terminology to approve such annihilation of fauna and flora species.

- All bushland/forest areas in "offset for mining companies" regardless of the resource they seek to mine, must be "Offset in Perpetuity", as was stipulated for Duralie Coal in the ICAG Inc. Merits Appeal Class 1 Vs Planning Department/Gloucester/Duralie Coal, Land & Environment Court 2011. I would expect the DPIE/IPC and Ministers to have ALL offset areas set as "Offset in Perpetuity", so that Hunter Quarries cannot keep removing bushland forests with each modification.

- If offset areas were "offset in Perpetuity", then these areas would be stopped from having Government approve the slow removal of offset areas with each modification and/or extension.

- I object to the other 9 modifications for Hunter Quarries, 4 of which were approved and 5 which were withdrawn, all being done without people knowing, who are already impacted by Hunter Quarries. The legislation/DPIE/Ministers/companies, believing they have a right not to advise people of a pending proposed development, so people can lodge their objections. Yet the very same people that the Planning Department failed to contact for the other 9 modifications, (DPIE) contacted these people by letter recently of the Mod-10's submission period.

* Why did the DPIE and rightly so, advise the people/community groups who were previous objectors of Hunter Quarries for Mod-10, yet felt no obligation or transparency to advise the very same people about the other 9 modifications?

* The Planning Department/Ministers having hidden 9 modifications from public comment previously for Hunter Quarries (HQ) in Blue Rock Close, Karuah Shire, which has given HQ extended operating times through various modifications (Mod). Up to 10pm Monday to Friday (50 calendar days per year), who will check this is not 51 or more? and 9pm Monday to Friday and 6pm on Saturday, which is beyond reasonable as people are dreadfully impacted by noise and dust, from machinery, crusher, loading, blasting and truck movements.

When is the wildlife supposed to recover and settle down for their night's sleep and nocturnal animals be able to come out in peace?

* I object to the DPIE not notifying property owners already impacted, the community and Community Groups, that the Department know exist and have their contact details, as they made a wrongful and bad decision to not give these people the courtesy through contact of these pending modifications (listed below), yet contacted them for Mod 10 ONLY.

* With Mod-9 extended operating hours approved November 2021, and Modification 8 extended noise criterias approved December 2020, (Mod 1 and 2) NEW bushland areas approved to be destroyed in April 2018 and December 2018, that removed further bushland/forested areas that are offset bushland areas for wildlife around 3+ pits in this area, with another pit further north south of Halloran Road North Arm Cove.

- * If remnant forests/bushland is continued to be handed over to be destroyed, it also (landlocks bushland) and stops the free transfer of precious wildlife including Koala's moving (from/to all these properties) Lots 201, 202, 21, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, and 4, 5 or any other property where Hilton Grugeon/Hunter Quarries seeks to have bushland removed.
- * Wildlife corridors of intact remanent bushland must be preserved not continued to be handed over to be destroyed. Wildlife should not have to attempt to access around open cut pits, infrastructure, roads, crushers, dirty water holding dams, gravel sorting/stock piles, parking areas of office blocks.
- * No further approvals should be given on any of these properties above or around in this entire remaining bushland area, including the Hunter Quarries operation south of Halloran Road North Arm Cove.
- * This bushland Core Koala and other wildlife species including Quolls and Phascagales etc. on the north side of the Pacific Highway from The Branch Lane to south of Halloran Road is being removed with each modification and/or extension.
- * All these previous modifications, all being done without the property owners, Community/Community Groups knowing anything about it, so therefore cannot lodge an objection if we don't know about the proposed development application in with the NSW Planning Department (DPIE).
- * The lack of transparency, all being done to assist Hunter Quarries to proceed without any opposition. Bad Government decisions to give approval in the first place, including underhanded modification approvals (mod 1 to 9), without the very property owners that are already being impacted by any of his works areas already (noise, dust, crusher noise/dust, vehicle noise, loading, truck movements, (contaminated drinking water, respiratory issues and causing nose bleeds from Karuah area to Limeburners Creek).
- * No Government notice of all the previous modifications to at least be given a "right to object", yet is written up in documentation that there was no objections received. This continues to show us all the hipocracy and deceitful means submissions/development applications actually are and when lodged with the State Government Departments, are rushed through under deceitful means to approval.
- * It is wrong to keep extending open cut pits in NEW bushland areas or extend for overburden dump sites, or for office buildings, roads or carparks are not in the best interest of the bushland area for wildlife that is already being removed by the many areas (4 at least) of Hunter Quarries that is all operating independently or is seeking to do so by approvals. These bushland areas on ALL these properties need to remain intact and no further roads/infrastructure, open cut pits should be approved.
- * The DPIE did not contact us for MODS 1 to 9, yet for some reason unknown decided to contact us all for MOD-10, now currently this submission period finishes this Wednesday 17th August 2022 by close of business, (Mod-10) is seeking further NEW bushland areas to be removed on property 12 and 13 if Mod-10 is approved.

Yours faithfully,

Scott Sledge,
President
PO Box 332
Uki, NSW 2474