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2 March 2023

<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/39821>

Dear Sir or Madame,

Re: Holcim Salt Ash Sand Operations Project Application No: SSD 9099356.

I wish to object to the above proposal to clear all vegetation on this block of land because it will significantly threaten the survival of endangered and vulnerable fauna. The Proponent's Biodiversity Impact Statement identified sightings and records of the following threatened species: Little Lorikeet, Rufous Fantail, Varied Sitella, White throated Needletail, New Holland Mouse. Recordings of Eastern Coastal Free Tailed Bat, Greater-Broad-nosed Bat, Koala, Yellow-bellied Sheath-tail-bat, Eastern free-tailed bat, Squirrel Glider, Greater Broad-nosed bat, and White-bellied Sea Eagle. BioNet data has recordings of the above species as well as Grey Headed Flying Foxes and the Pied Currawong.

Wildlife in this area use its vegetation for habitat which is essential for their survival. Removing habitat will push wildlife out of the area putting them at risk of attacks by predators, roadkill, accidents by mining machines, diseases caused by the stress of lost habitat and contamination from the mine. The proponent can reduce the level of harm to wildlife by allowing the current peripheral vegetation to remain as a corridor to the Worimi National Park. Hence this will provide a path to safe habitat in the National Park for wildlife.

The remaining vegetation on the mining site contains koala food trees which are a declining species and must be protected to feed koalas. There are areas where the width of the surrounding vegetation is narrow, hence these plants must be cared for to ensure they flourish given the harsh environment they are subjected to by mining processes. It is also important to expand the thin corridors by planting suitable habitat for local wildlife and koalas. The minimum width of a wildlife corridor is 50 metres. In places where this is not possible then 30 metres would allow animals to move through to safety.

I understand that the proposed mining of sand from a pond with a dredge will interfere with the quality and quantity of water in the underground water system. Potentially this will reduce the availability of clean water to the community and underground water necessary for the survival of vegetation in the area including the Worimi National Park. It is vital that the most environmentally friendly extraction of sand be employed for this site. Further studies are required to ensure all practices on this mining site do no harm to the local ecology, including wildlife and the community.

In summary I object to the proposal because it will have an adverse impact on the health of fauna, flora and the local community. It is critical that further investigations are conducted to ensure this mine's operations are not harmful in any way.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Kind Regards
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