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Planning Services  
Department of Planning and Environment  
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**Attention: Director - Resource Assessments**

**This is a submission on the Sutton Forest Quarry Project: EIS SSD 6334**

I Strongly object to the proposed sand quarry and believe that it should not be approved. I have many concerns that include but are not limited to the following:

**Shrine of Our Lady of Mercy - Penrose Park**

As a regular visitor to the Shrine of Our Lady of Mercy Penrose Park, I am concerned about the effect the Sand Quarry will have upon the Shrine. It will greatly affect the shrine through the noise pollution, taking away from the peace and tranquillity of the place that so many come to seek. The dust will both have an effect on the health of visitors and also dirty the shrine. The increased traffic will make the Shrine harder to access. The mine will also affect the Shrine's water supply, which it needs to provide for visitors.

**Environment**

The mine will destroy hectares of native vegetation in the Great Western Wildlife Corridor. In a time when we are seeing an increased need to protect our endangered native wildlife, this is unacceptable. The local wildlife, which includes many endangered species, along with the loss of habitat will be subjected to dust, noise and light pollution 24/7 for 30 years.

**Water**

The open-pit quarry will excavate nearly 40 meters below the current water table and lower the aquifer. In a time when water is becoming an increasingly precious resource, this is again unacceptable. If the quarry is to take so much from the water table, this means less for agriculture, industry and personal use. There are also concerns that the backfill will contain toxic substances that will pollute the water table. There are also concerns about what any run-off might have on the adjacent Long Swamp. All of the above will cause permanent damage to the Sydney water catchment area.

**Social**

People come to live in the Southern Highlands to seek a cleaner and greener environment to live in. The quarry, through the destruction of the local biodiversity, the pollution of the air and groundwater, the constant noise and light pollution from the quarry itself, and increased traffic, will have permanent effects on the social life of the Southern Highlands and the health of its residents. In the end, it leaves a visual scar on the landscape that many continue to be dumping places for waste into our environment even after the 30 years of mining have been completed, with an uncertain hope of any real rehabilitation of the area.

**This is a terrible proposal for multiple reasons, and I believe that the Department and NSW Government should reject it.**

Signed: Donna Lauff

Dated: 29/11/23

I wish to maintain privacy in this submission from the Department's website. ☒

I have not made a reportable political donation. ☒