

SUBMISSION ON SUTTON FOREST SAND QUARRY.

November 2023

I wish to protest strongly for the second time that this project should not proceed in the Sydney Drinking Water Catchment. As I have served as a community representative with the Sydney Catchment Authority and have worked for 30 years as a volunteer Bush Regenerator on Mount Gibraltar to ensure clean water leaves this source of two catchment Rivers: the Wingecarribee and the Nattai I am deeply offended by this cavalier proposal to pollute the system with slugs of sand.

It is time the Department of Environment and Planning considered the Environment component of its responsibilities seriously.

This shire, on the rim of the Sydney Basin provides the lungs and kidneys for the Sydney metropolis and should not be buried under urban sprawl and industry, nor the cumulative effects of 'state significant developments' that are certainly not to the benefit of the state but only to the foreign developers who in some cases are of doubtful integrity. (see Plastic refinery) or the Korean coal mine proposal that took such an inordinate amount of time and money to condemn. I, therefore, protest strongly about State Significant Development overriding the desires and expectations of the community who live and care for their Shire and have voiced their valid objections. We should not be dominated by insensitive bureaucrats in some urban high rise building proposing these destructive projects without comprehension of the long term effects, without inspection and without listening to the local knowledge.- or ignoring it. Our public service is supposed to serve the community,, not dominate it and ignore the representatives who live here.

It is pointless to seek consultation without the outstanding environmental Assessments unless the Department simply wants to tick a box for consultation without studying the replies.

There is also no need for this sand quarry to be in this catchment Shire as there is certainly no shortage of material available when the geological map is studied, and there is no need for a quarry to be sited in a crucial native vegetation area when there is already cleared and damaged land that would not require such destruction.

The following points have been raised over and over again and if all the Strategies and promises are to mean anything the proposal could not possibly go ahead.

1. **Corruption of the Drinking Water Catchment**, both surface and ground water. Disturbance of the soil, particularly on this scale and in such mobile soil is highly likely to create erosion that moves sand particles downstream to form massive sand slugs in our waterways. The scale of these quarries is more than likely to change the drainage patterns and alter the aquifers.

It is time the "PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE" was applied.

2. **Destruction of the biodiversity corridor.** This huge proposal will completely corrupt this vital linking biodiversity corridor that has had enormous public funds and local care lavished on it as a link in the north- south Great Eastern 'ranges Initiative'. This is the forward thinking, proposal as a means to survival of not only the native creatures but the whole bio-diversity complex of the planet and human beings. Smart as we think we are we have not invented photosynthesis and are still dependent for our oxygen on the green cells of plants. The plants depend on the pollinators large and small to reproduce and survive. We cannot in our

arrogance and developers greed destroy these hard won slivers of hope. This is a matter for 'GENERATIONAL EQUITY' This land should not be destroyed just for the benefit of a quarrying company..

3. **The Corridor is 'PROTECTED KOALA HABITAT'**. If the word 'protected' is to mean anything it is certainly not 'fell the trees and dig it up and truck it away.'
4. **Our prevailing winds are strong westerlies and south westerlies** so the likelihood of heavy downwind blown pollution of dust, silica and abrasive grains is very high and damaging to a large part of the Shire
5. **The noise and vibration of quarrying and transport** is a grossly underestimated danger to health and well-being only recently being acknowledged as a problem. This not only affects human beings but a great deal of wildlife. Night lighting is also a huge problem for our invertebrate community and the microbats that form part of the checks and balances in our environment.
6. **Transfer of heavy and numerous loads is an impediment to the free flow of traffic** on the Great Southern Road and the Sydney to Canberra Corridor. This will add to the danger of the highways in a year of record deaths. It will also contribute large amounts of emissions to aggravate the Climate Change modification efforts and multiply the huge roadkill total of our native animals..

On top of these environmental objections, we find that the company "Hi-Quality" is anything but high quality and has a very poor record with numerous Environmental Protection charges.

There are no advantages or benefits for the Shire which will eventually be left with a vast hole in the ground, gap in its vegetation corridor, and destroyed tranquility, especially for "our Lady of Mercy and all its chapels regarded as retreat's for urban people.

This PROPOSAL is a brutal invasion that classifies the department as a mob of bullies and has no place in this beautiful rural land.



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Please acknowledge receipt of this submission

6.5 Impacts considered uncertain

Potential impacts to biodiversity values associated with the interception of groundwater and changes to surface hydrology as a result of the project are considered uncertain. The current assessment is based on the results of numerical models (EMM 2023a, 2023b), which suggest impacts to higher risk biodiversity values will not be substantial, however future response to changes to dynamic systems is difficult to predict. As such, a monitoring and adaptive management strategy will be prepared for the project to ensure any negative effects are realised early, mitigated where possible, and offset if required.

Impacts to the following biodiversity values are considered uncertain and will be the subject of monitoring and adaptive management:

- Temperate Highland Peat Swamp TEC.
- Coastal Upland Swamp TEC (PCT 1078).
- Montane Peatlands and Swamps TEC (PCT 1256).
- Broad-leaved Sally.
- Giant Dragonfly.
- PCT 1155 and PCT 1152 (low potential GDEs) and associated habitats around impacted seep (SE03) and spring (SP09).
- Vegetation and habitats in areas subject to modelled drawdown and along Watercourse A (recipient of water from water management strategy).
 - PCT 1150 (up to 1.91 ha), PCT 1152 (up to 0.36ha), PCT 1155 (up to 0.15).
 - Known and potential habitat for Dwarf Phyllota, *Hibbertia puberula* and *Helichrysum calvertianum*.
 - Known and potential habitat for Greater Glider, Koala, Large-eared Pied Bat (forage only), Southern Myotis, Red-crowned Toadlet, Littlejohn's Tree Frog (potential only).

Further information on the proposed adaptive management strategy is provided in Section 7.2.