

To whom it may concern,

My name is Jessica Faulkner and I'm a resident of Bobs Farm and have been for 26 years.

I'm writing in regards to the proposal of the AMMOS Resource (Tattersall Lander Pty Ltd) sand mine planned to be where the Fig and Olive Farm is along Nelson Bay Road.

Being a past Native Animal rescuer, committee member and carer for WINC (Wildlife In Need Of Care), I am quite concerned for the population, habitat, housing and food source for many species which rely on the vegetation IN the Fig and Olive Farm and also the surrounding areas.

I have Studied Certificate 2 in Animal Studies, Certificate 2 in Agriculture and Certificate 3 in Captive Animals which covers a vast knowledge of conservation, species distribution, environmental impacts on species, and I am very passionate about native fauna and flora, so I do have some knowledge of the impacts this sand mine would have on the targeted area and surroundings.

The main concerns I have about this proposed sand mine are:

- **Destruction of habitat/ecosystems of vulnerable and endangered species, and old growth forest which exists in the area.**
- **Destruction of ancient sand dunes and an indigenous heritage area.**
- **Effects this mine will have on the surrounding farming community and me such as:**
 - **traffic due to the proposed 200 trucks a day exiting on Marsh road in a designated school zone and Nelson Bay road**
 - **depletion of water levels in the underground water tables**
 - **changing the salinity of the water tables**
 - **habitat disturbances**
 - **silica dust, Diesel fumes and/or other pollutions**
 - **chemical and/or toxic runoffs**
 - **soil degradation**
 - **Noise pollution**
 - **Potential rainwater contamination**

Due to the close proximity where the proposed sand mine will be and the recent large road upgrade as well as the current land clearing for construction of the Sunrise Lifestyle Resort located 3kms away on Nelson Bay Road, it will disturb species territories once again which could have an even bigger impact on their species survival and will cause an imbalance in the targeted and surrounding ecosystem and habitat. When the construction began for the extension of Nelson Bay Road, a vast amount of trees were cut down as well as land clearing which had a huge impact on the native fauna and flora. The surrounding Koala population had been pushed further away from their original territories which caused a lot of stress within a koala community putting stress on the population, and when they stress, they are more susceptible to catching and shedding diseases/illnesses. Not only are their immune systems impacted by the stress of the destruction of their territory and habitat but migrating to a new territory adds more hazards for the population such as being hit by cars when being forced to migrate, and being attacked by predators in the new territory etc.

Where AMMOS plans to create a sand mine, there exists a dwindling koala population which will most likely no longer exist IF the sand mine were to be approved. The local organisation "Hunter Koala Preservation Society" is trying their hardest to assist the vulnerable koala population within this area and another impact like this (Sand mining) will only make it harder. We WILL see an increase in animal rescues around the site of the sand mine and this is something I wish not to see.

Koalas are only ONE of many species which will be greatly affected if there were to be sand mining in Bobs Farm.

I live on a property on Marsh Road which is attached by our south and western boundary to the property which AMMOS has bought. The property I live on is approximately 150 meters from our drive way to

where the trucks will be exiting on Marsh Road and 30 meters from our closest boundary to where the trucks driveway goes through their property where they will be exiting on and its length goes for about 90 meters along our boundary.

Being in such close proximity to 200 trucks a day, not only will it be a highly significant disturbance to not only my family but to all other adjoining properties to which some are even closer.

My property has been home to many Bush Stone Curlews over the many years of living here.

The Bush Stone-curlew is listed as Endangered (Schedule 1) on the NSW *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*, and has suffered a dramatic decline in abundance across southern and eastern Australia. It was once a common species of open grassy woodlands, occurring widely throughout NSW. The species now occurs in very low densities at scattered locations west of the Great Dividing Range and isolated patches along the northeast and central coast of the state.

Oakvale Farm and Fauna Word (where I previously volunteered for 2 years) has a conservation program in place for this species to help build the numbers in this and surrounding areas. They have been taking part in this program for many years and it would have devastating adverse effects on this effort if this sand mine were to be approved seeing as there have been multiple sightings of these birds inhabiting this area (multiple sightings roughly 1km away from the Fig and Olive farm).



The Fig and Olive farm property as well as the surrounding bushland also houses a large population of Grey Headed Flying fox as well as other flying fox species.



Photo 1 above.

The Grey Headed Flying Fox is listed as Vulnerable due to having to compete with humans for prime coastal habitat. Due to many other projects within Port Stephens and surrounding areas where habitat destruction has occurred, it has pushed away the colonies which resided there which has caused an increase and more concentrated population with a lot of properties in Bobs Farm and Salt ash INCLUDING where the proposed sand mine is to be. Here is a photograph I took of the colony taking flight. The first photo is taken roughly 1km away from the proposed sand mine site. The second photo was taken from my back yard where you can see the colony taking flight over the sand hill, right above where the sand mine is proposed to be.



Photo 2:

Due to the location of this proposed sand mine, it is surrounding many local farms and businesses that will be effected by this sand mine, whether that be by traffic due to the proposed 200 trucks a day exiting on Marsh Road, depletion of water levels in the underground water tables, changing the salinity of the water tables, habitat disturbances, silica or other pollutions, chemical or toxic runoffs, soil degradation, sound pollution etc.

In sand mining procedures where dredging is being performed, dredging results in lowering of the

alluvial water table which, in turn, directly affects groundwater storage capacity. Excessive dredging allows for saline intrusion into groundwater. The lowered water table implies a rise in water costs, thus restricting access to only those who can afford it. It results in habitat loss including destruction and fragmentation of fragile, endangered ecosystems and reduced species richness. My property relies A LOT on the underground water tables to water livestock, and it would greatly affect us if it were to deplete or if contents were to change.

Mines can affect surface runoff and groundwater quality through contamination with dissolved and suspended materials. Mines can de-water groundwater aquifers some distance from shafts or open pits, which can make nearby wells or groundwater bores run dry.

Would my property be affected if it were to flood? Seeing as the proposed sand mine is on the high side of an ancient dune and my property is on the lower land below the ancient dune, would the lower properties be affected by chemical runoff even more so when prone to flooding?

Another one of my main concerns with this proposal is the inappropriate location.

This sand mine has proposed to have 200 trucks a day exiting into a designated school zone ONLY 20 meters away from the local public school (Bobs Farm Public School, where I once was school captain). For many years it has been a great concern that "Hay Enterprises" (the earth moving company which AMMOS will have access to with their trucks) has their many trucks disrupting the school and local traffic along Marsh Road. "Hay Enterprises" is located to the rear left side of my property and it produces a lot of noise pollution with their loud banging from their trucks and machinery. This will only become a lot worse with an extra 200 trucks exiting from "Hay Enterprises" property.

I'm concerned that Marsh Road isn't capable of withstanding an extra 200 trucks a day for 15 years. The road is poorly maintained, full of potholes, cracks, not lines etc and there has already been MANY road accidents on the east end of Marsh road where the trucks will be existing onto Nelson Bay Road.

The traffic along Nelson Bay road (where Marsh Road starts as well as all through the sand hills) during holiday season the traffic banks up for kilometres. With the amount of trucks that will be exiting on to Marsh Road then onto Nelson Bay road, this will cause terrible traffic conditions for a town that's a popular holiday destination. This could then result in our Holiday destination being turned away by people due to poor access and poor traffic conditions which will put people's safety at risk.

It would be such a shame to see this mine being approved as it will also affect the value of all properties surrounding the location which includes my parent's property which will be my siblings and I inheritance.

To sum up my response to this proposal I do have some requests:

- I request that this sand mine proposal to be rejected! It will have great effects on the targeted and surrounding habitat as well as adverse impacts on the surrounding farmers and residence. I feel that this proposed sand mine is poorly situated and doesn't belong in such a beautiful holiday area.
- I also request for an extension on the exhibition period for the EIS so that the larger community can have enough time for all to assess and understand it. The EIS was released during the busiest time for all of us in Port Stephens being a holiday destination and being the summer holidays.
- Funding for a peer review of the EIS submitted with the proposal is supplied by the developer due to concerns of a conflict of interests with local MP's (Bruce Mackenzie, local MP owns and operates another sand mine locally – Macka's Sand, and has personal interest in the industry) DA approval processes may be swayed by personal economic interests.
 - There are a number of cases in which independent reviews of EIS have aided communities in reviewing state significant development proposals in the extractive industry.
For example: Bogabri/Maules Ck state significant Dev. Mine
- If the sand mine were to be approved, choose another location (such as on Nelson Bay road) to exit the trucks on a road away from the primary school.
- To have the local wildlife rescue groups (WINC-Wildlife In Need Of Care, Hunter Koala Preservation Society) on call during the time in which the vegetation and old forest were to be destroyed.
- Ongoing monthly testing of all possible pollutants such as Silica dust (which can cause Silicosis), ground/soil testing, hydrology reports of salinity and aquifer levels on site and neighbouring properties within a 20km radius, at the cost of the operator, by a professional independent scientific organisation.

I urge you take all these concerns and information into consideration when determining the end results and fate for our beautiful land where this proposed mine will be, and consider the effects it will have on the farming producers surrounding the proposed site, the vulnerable flora and fauna, as well as the local primary school. Are the short term gains more valuable than our long term community welfare and the long term suffering it will inflict if this mine were to be approved?

Regards,

Jessica Faulkner of Bobs Farm NSW.