

Submission – Objection to Barina Quarry Modification (DA 1-01-2001 Modification No. 3).

I travel Collector Road on a regular basis, including the area of road access between Barina Quarry and the Federal Highway. I object to the Modification due to traffic modifications and road upgrades not being binding prior to commencement of heavy vehicle traffic movements. This is a public safety issue.

1. Collector Road Access and Traffic Safety

Previous Obligations Not Met

The original consent required that Collector Road be upgraded before any truck haulage commenced. The current modification seeks to replace that clear obligation with a Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA), which is only in draft form and does not commit either the applicant or the council. This effectively weakens the original safeguard. The quarry owners did not comply with their prior obligations, and there is no evidence that conditions will be strictly enforced under the proposed modification.

Traffic Risks

The applicant's own report acknowledges Collector Road is currently in poor to moderate condition. Heavy quarry vehicles will accelerate road degradation. The introduction of heavy truck and trailer traffic will increase the risk of accidents. Narrow bends force heavy vehicles to cross into the opposite lane, creating unsafe conditions. Regular fog events further reduce visibility and increase risks. Public safety is rated the highest risk on the project's risk management matrix and will remain so unless road upgrades are completed prior to haulage.

Required Conditions

- Road widening to Austroads standards, with sufficient lane width for truck and trailer movements on bends.
- Fog and low-visibility conditions explicitly considered in design and safety measures.
- No truck movements permitted until the road upgrade is fully completed and independently certified.

3. Conclusion

The modification (DA 1-01-2001 Modification No. 3) seeks to reduce obligations that were previously imposed for public safety and environmental protection. Specifically: replacing mandatory road upgrades with a draft, unenforceable VPA undermines community safety.

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