

NSW Department of Planning & Environment

GPO Box 39

Sydney NSW 2001

Anthony.Barnes@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir,

I wish to object to the Application for a new gravel quarry known as The Karuah South Quarry located at Lot 11 DP 1024564, a State Significant Development (S.D.D.) – as outlined in the Environmental Impact Statement (E.I.S.) 17_8795. And the Specialist Consultant Studies Compendium 1 & 2

The basis for my objection is as follows

1. Noise Pollution: The proposed quarry is located adjacent to the two existing Hunter Quarries and will add an additional crushing plant to the immediate area. The proposal includes an uncovered crushing plant. There have been noise pollution issues associated with the existing uncovered Hunter Quarries operation leading to penalties being applied by NSW Dept. Planning and Environment October 2018 and an additional crusher will add to the existing noise. The crusher plant should be covered with noise abatement material. The EIS should take the combined effect of all operations in the area into account.
2. Dust: the area currently suffers dust pollution especially after blasting from the existing two Hunter crushing plants. The existing crushers are not covered, and the addition of a third crusher will increase the existing unacceptable dust pollution. No independent dust monitoring is in place and pollution is seriously affecting local residents, causing reports of illness, and nose bleeds. The dust evaluation should take into consideration all operations in the area. As the extraction continues a large void will emerge as a cutting through the existing hill causing changes in the wind conditions around the site and potentially exacerbating the dust spread from the site
3. Visual Pollution: The proposed quarry application envisages removal of a large section of the virgin hill scape leaving a scar on the landscape. The proposed quarry will destroy many old growth trees and the EIS contains no remediation plan to repair damage once the quarrying operation has ceased
4. Pollution of the local waterways: The site slopes toward the Yalimba Creek and the application proposes discharge of unspecified "clean" water to the local protected wetlands and Port Stephens Marine Park. Discharge must be prevented and water falling on the site should be retained and used for dust prevention and mitigation, the water being lost to evaporation during dust mitigation procedures
5. Animal Impact: The area is habitat to Koalas and the proposed Quarry will reduce habitat and connection to associated habitat

6. Risk of low-level detention dams being overwhelmed: The proposed detention dams for dirty and clean water are located close to the lower boundary and are relatively small. The current design would allow uncontrolled discharge of dirty and clean water in the event of a one in 50-year heavy rainfall event such as that which occurred on April 2015 and in June 2007. High rainfall events are becoming more frequent and stronger as the climate changes. Any new quarry must provide for heavy rainfall events.
7. Incomplete list of Flora on the Quarry Site:
8. The list of flora provided in the EIS is incomplete and limited. I request an independent audit of all flors and old growth tree species to be undertaken before the project is considered for approval

I am happy to expand on my objections as the application proceeds

Yours Faithfully,

Rod Zemanek

Director

Innovative Process Engineering P/L