

Anne Whatman

[REDACTED]
Willowvale, NSW 2534

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Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

4 Parramatta Square, 12 Darcy Street,

Parramatta NSW 2150.

Re: Gerroa Quarry – Gerroa Sand Production Increase (MOD2. Modification Number 20251003002845.

Kiama Municipality

Project Approval Number: MP05_0099 (MOD-2)

I am writing to you regarding the Gerroa Quarry Modification (MP_050099-Mod-2. I wish to object to the lodged proposal to increase the amount of sand extracted per annum from 80,000tpa to 120,000 tonnes for the following reasons.

This proposal will increase the maximum rate of road transportation by 50% through the middle of the small, rural and seaside tourist towns of Gerroa and Gerringong.

Cleary Bros, under new owners, Maas Group Holdings (MGH), currently have an approval to remove 80,000 tonnes of sand per annum from the Gerroa Sand Quarry, at Seven Mile Beach. They are seeking a modification to Project Approval MP05_0099 (Mod 1) for the Gerroa Sand Quarry (the 'Quarry' or the 'Project Site') to permit an increase to the maximum rate of road transportation by 50% from 80,000tpa to 120,000tpa.

The concerns this proposal raises are the impact of the modified transport requirements. To move the increased sand will require either:

1. a greater number of truck movements using the same sized trucks (22 tonnes) or
2. the same number of movements using larger trucks (32 tonnes to 42 tonnes) or
3. a mixture of both

The likely outcomes will be:

1. Increased wear and tear on roads either through increased numbers of trucks or greater damage from larger trucks;
2. Increased noise either from increased number of trucks or louder noises from bigger trucks. This will add to the existing noise created by these trucks over many years. I have attended many meetings for various groups in the RSL Hall on the corner of the intersection of Fern and Belinda Streets. Trucks need to slow right down at this intersection to navigate the roundabout there. In doing so they generate a great deal of noise. So much so that we

always needed to close the doors and windows to proceed with the meeting or group gathered for training. This Proposal will add further to that noise, in what is supposed to be a quiet rural, beachside tourist town.

3. Traffic issues in built up areas such as along Belinda Street from Fern Street to the highway intersection near Gerringong Station, at major intersections and roundabouts and at critical places along the Crooked River Road and Fern Street.

Belinda St itself passes by the Mayflower Retirement Village and Nursing Home, a famous pub and has a school crossing. The street has a second busy roundabout that provides access in one direction to Elambra Housing Estate, the Gerringong Primary School, and in the other direction to the shops and in particular the very busy Gerringong IGA. Further along it also intersects with Virginia St, which is the entrance and exit for a truck depot for McCabe Transport. The proposed increase in heavy traffic from Cleary Bros, added to the existing trucks using Virginia St, will add to the increasingly dangerous traffic issues building up in this area of town.

In particular the 70% of the truck movements heading north will exacerbate the entrances and exits to Gerringong from the Princes Highway. Because these involve 2 intersections and an underpass under the highway, with several blind spots, there are continually many near misses and we feel only a matter of time before there is a serious accident. These on and off ramps have clearly been designed for light traffic. Adding to the busy intersections of the on and off ramps with Belinda St is a busy garage. The garage sits right before the first intersection on the east side of the highway, adding to the risks of colliding with other traffic.

4. Higher road maintenance costs for affected Councils with repairs to roads – who will pay? It should not be the ratepayers.
5. Overall, Road safety issues generating from this proposed increased mining.

Please note that:

1. 70% of truck movements head north and will use the Princes Highway, via Beach Road, Crooked River Road, Fern Street and Belinda Street.
2. 30% head south of the Project Site and will use the Princes Highway, via Beach Road (except as permitted for Gerroa Road below); and
3. No Project-related trucks will use Gerroa Road, except where the destination lies along or adjacent to that road.

Maas Group Holdings proposal to increase the amount of sand mining stated that;

“The overall extent and duration of the Project are not proposed to change. The maximum severity of impact would not increase as a result of the Proposed Modification, with no increase in the applicable noise and air quality criteria proposed. Based on the above, the Applicant contends that the Proposed Modification would be considered substantially the same development.”

I think for reasons outlined above that the noise level and the additional amount of heavy traffic would be considerable and have significant negative impacts on town life, on traffic safety and on the wear and tear on the area's roads.

From an environmental perspective, how can the mining company be sure that if the sand is mined at a much higher rate, the area around the mine will remain stable? It provides less time for

mitigation of any issues and natural stabilisation, particularly with sand as the mined substance. The Gerroa Sand Quarry is directly behind the iconic and much loved 7 Mile beach.

When this company have mined the 120, 000 tonnes, will they then put in a proposal to mine more? There is a situation now in NSW, where overdevelopment is happening everywhere at significant cost to people's amenity, their long-term investment in the places they live, and in the damage to our environments both urban and rural. This overdevelopment is a product of our rapidly increasing population through high unsustainable immigration. The cost of the infrastructure required to maintain our standard of living under such pressure of population growth is extraordinary and unsustainable. It results in Australia using up its resources, like the Gerroa Sand Quarry at such a high rate they are exhausted for future generations of Australians and their needs.

Yours Sincerely

Anne Whatman