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13/10/18

**Re: HOLCIM DUNLOE SANDS MODIFICATION 2 TO Project Approval 06/-0030,
Application No. MP 06_0030 MOD 2.**

As president of Earth Learning Group – a local environmental group of appr 60 members - I would like to raise the following points in objection to this modification

'Earth Learning' is a Tweed based volunteer organization focused on preserving local species biodiversity. This development poses an unnecessary increase in risk to an already threatened population of local koalas.

The Tweed Coast Koala Plan of Management (KPoM) "aims to promote koala friendly planning and development" (Sep 2014). This development is to occur in an area identified as a "koala hot spot" and the activities outlined below are certain to impact adversely on the koala population. It is widely understood that road-strike is one of the highest causes of koala mortality

Under this proposal –

Truck movements are proposed to increase significantly from 80 daily truck movements to 240 movements to & from the site. Overall this represents a **300% increase on daily truck movements**. This is projected until the year 2035.

Our objections –

- These trucks are of a large size – with little chance of braking suddenly compared with smaller vehicles. The area is identified as a "koala linkage" meaning that koalas traverse it moving from one habitat to another. The survival of our local koala population depends on such movement for population growth and dispersal – large truck traffic is *not* a "koala friendly" addition.
- Koalas need to travel overland for breeding, to search for food and water and **to escape stress from constant noise and dust**. They cannot conform to travelling at night only between the hours of 5pm to 7am Monday to Friday and after 12 noon on Saturdays. Koalas, like all wildlife are unpredictable and often move on the ground during daylight hours.
- The KPoM and earlier Habitat Study identify this "Dunloe Park Koala Linkage Precinct" as highly important in providing connectivity under the highway by way of an underpass at Sleepy Hollow Road. This proposal contravenes the objectives for linkages stated in the KPoM (pts a, c, d, f).
- The success of the Tweed Koala Connections project is indicated by koala sightings Koalas on the neighbouring properties
- Should this modification be approved the very worth while and hard won Koala Connections project could *be placed in jeopardy* in this area as people become disillusioned by the seemingly contradictory actions of Council.

- Additionally the proposal is not consistent with “Land Use” mapping. It is mapped as ‘Regionally Significant Farmland’ within the Farmland Protection Project and mapped as ‘land suitable for grazing but not cultivation’ on Tweed Shire Councils agricultural land suitability mapping.

For these reasons we ask that you reject this proposed modification We also ask that you arrange for an independent environmental assessment of the site and its surrounds and its potential to impact adversely on the Tweed Coast Koala Population – now listed as Endangered Local Population.

Yours Faithfully,

Marion Riordan



President – Earth Learning

(I / we have not made any political donations in the previous 2 years.)