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Date: 12/20/2012 9:34 pm
Subject: Project application number 06_0278

To Whom It May Concern,

We are emailing you today to express our vehement opposition to the expansion of the quarry currently being run by Rocla at Calga, application number as noted above.

Despite the revised application, Rocla have done little to address any of our concerns, and appear to have sought to appease us with a small reduction in the size of the total land affected. The main issues that concern us include increased atmospheric dust levels, increased truck activity and contamination of and damage to the local aquifer and environment.

Any increase in the size of Rocla's operations will inevitably result in an increase in the amount of exceptionally fine particles of crystalline silica dust being released into the air - particles which are well known to have a severe, detrimental impact on human lungs, similar to asbestosis, and with the same fatal results. This dust is invisible, the tiny particles collect so deep in the lungs that they can't be coughed out even by the healthiest people. There is also mounting scientific evidence that suggests this dust is also carcinogenic. We have friends who live much closer to the existing quarry than we do, and they never hang anything out on their washing line in their own back yard - if they do, it ends up covered in dust and in need of another wash. Would any government knowingly subject their citizens to such a toxic substance - thus opening themselves up to all sorts of compensation claims? Would they really put the profit of a New Zealand company above the health of their residents?

Another effect of any increase in volume is that of trucks on Peats Ridge Road. More sand being quarried inevitably means more trucks will be needed to transport it. There are already far too many on this road. I have personally experienced the disregard with which many of these trucks treat other vehicles - I have been tailgated by them, experienced several near misses, and on one occasion was almost run off the road by one insisting on overtaking another round a blind corner. Then of course there was the time we ended up with a truck on it's side and chicken feed spread all over the road just at the end of our driveway. I cannot imagine that Rocla will assist in the better training of any truck drivers, so having more of them on Peats Ridge Road, at current standards (or lack thereof) will most assuredly result in an increase in accidents and more than likely deaths in this area.

Rocla have done nothing to address our concerns about the local aquifer either - how can ripping out such a vast swathe of it not impact on the local water supply? This of course will in turn impact upon local families, businesses, land holders - indeed, everyone in the vicinity, not to mention the native flora and fauna. The ramifications of this could be felt as far away as Gosford, no one really knows. It is also very likely that what remains of our water supply will be contaminated as a direct result of Rocla's actions. As there is no 'town water' available in Calga, every residence here relies on bores and rain water tanks for all their water - drinking, washing, everything. We are most concerned that our health and lifestyle will be detrimentally impacted by this expansion.

Rocla also appear to be a little above the law at present; at last check, they did not have a water licence large enough to allow them to extract the amount of water necessary to produce the amount of sand they do at the moment. Should Rocla expand, they will need to extract much more water from the locality. If they're not playing by the rules at the moment, I'm sure they won't when those needs grow. I also note that the water authority has not shown any inclination to investigate the current operation and it's water use.

It is for these reasons outlines above that my husband and myself implore you to reject Rocla's expansion application. I ask you to follow the precedent set when a proposed gas mine in the Yarramalong valley was scrapped over potential impacts on the water table (as published in the Central Coast Express Advocate, January 20th 2010, p 48). In the current environmental conditions we simply cannot afford to be so reckless with our water supply as to allow not only the use of 8 billion litres per year, but the utter destruction of the aquifer, which will never regenerate, even long after Rocla have left.

A sustained 250% increase in the devastation of our immediate environment every year for up to 30 years for no

purpose other than to line Rocla's pockets simply cannot be tolerated. I hope you will find in favour of the local residents and businesses over the demands of a company that isn't even Australian..

Yours sincerely, and in hope,

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