

Objection to the Proposed Bobs Farm Sand Quarry (SSD-99860959)

To Whom It May Concern,

I have been an employee of Bobs Farm Public School since 2006 and am also a local resident of the Port Stephens area. I wish to object to the proposed Bobs Farm Sand Quarry.

My main concern is the impact that this sand quarry will have on Bobs Farm Public School students and staff, and the school community.

Bobs Farm Public School is unique, small and nurturing school with a high focus on outdoor learning. We have a vegetable garden, mud kitchen and frog pond, as well outdoor sporting areas and an oval. Who is going to guarantee that the students and staff will not be exposed to potential health impacts from dust and silicates that the sand quarry will produce? The school employees at least 7 staff members each day. Who is going to guarantee their health and safety, and jobs? Bobs Farm is an educational, residential and ecofriendly business locality, not an industrial area! The sand quarry could spell death to the school. No one will want their children exposed to daily air quality, noise and human health risks every day.

It is not worth jeopardising local Bobs Farm ecofriendly businesses and the school, just so a large corporation such as Newcastle Sand can make extra profits. The negatives for the entire Port Stephens Community will outweigh the gains. Bobs Farm is the gateway to beautiful Port Stephens. A sand quarry has no place here.

Bobs Farm Public School is also not on town water. We rely on tank and bore water for our water supply. The impacts on our sensitive coastal groundwater system would be enormous. We do not want another environmental disaster in the area, like the Tilligerry Creek PFAS contamination.

This development would permanently destroy a significant natural dune landscape that can never be replaced. While sand can be sourced from other locations, once these dunes are excavated the landscape, native vegetation and wildlife habitat will be lost forever.

The school is home to black cockatoos, plovers, white faced herons, koalas, grey headed flying foxes and owls to mention a few species. I am concerned about the impacts on local wildlife. The proposal involves clearing a large area of native vegetation that provides habitat for koalas, gliders, owls and other native species. The area forms part of an important natural corridor linking surrounding bushland and conservation areas.

Traffic is another major concern. The quarry would result in a significant increase in heavy truck movements along Nelson Bay Road, a road already heavily used by residents, tourists, school buses and local businesses. Increased truck traffic raises

concerns about road safety, congestion and the overall character of the area. We only last week had a serious road accident on Nelson Bay Rd, Salt Ash, where all traffic was diverted along Marsh Rd. This is not an uncommon occurrence. Imagine the traffic chaos with all these extra trucks on the road.

The proposal also has the potential to affect nearby residents and businesses through dust, noise and visual impacts. Many people choose to live in and visit Port Stephens because of its natural environment. Introducing a large industrial quarry at the gateway to the peninsula is inconsistent with the area's tourism, environmental and lifestyle values.

I am not convinced that the long-term environmental and community impacts have been adequately addressed. There appears to be uncertainty regarding groundwater impacts, rehabilitation outcomes and the effectiveness of proposed mitigation measures. Monitoring impacts after they occur is not the same as preventing them.

In my view, the environmental and social costs outweigh the benefits of this proposal. Future generations should not lose an irreplaceable natural landscape for a project with a relatively short operational life.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Department refuse the application.

Yours sincerely,

CM

Bobs Farm/Shoal Bay