



Bobs Farm P&C Association

ABN: 21060142473
President: Vicki Knight
Vice President: James Kennedy
Secretary: Lauren Harrison
Treasurer: Emma Nolan

Dear Assessment Team,

On behalf of Bobs Farm Public School, we wish to raise serious concerns regarding the proposed Bobs Farm Sand Quarry and the potential impacts on the safety, wellbeing, health and educational environment of our students, staff and broader school community.

While we recognise the importance of the construction industry and the role of extractive resources in supporting economic development, we do not believe the current application has adequately demonstrated that the proposal can operate without unacceptable impacts on nearby sensitive receivers, including our school community.

Bobs Farm Public School is a Highly Sensitive Receiver

Bobs Farm Public School is not an industrial land use. It is a place where young children learn, play and develop.

The school community includes:

- young children who are particularly sensitive to environmental and safety risks;
- teaching and support staff;
- parents and carers travelling to and from the school;
- school buses and transport providers;
- students engaged in outdoor learning, sport and recreation.

We are concerned that the EIS does not appear to include a dedicated assessment of impacts on the school despite the acknowledged increase in quarry-related vehicle movements and the proximity of the proposed development to local transport routes used by students and families.

Road Safety Concerns

One of our most significant concerns relates to traffic safety.

The proposal would generate substantial heavy vehicle movements associated with the transport of sand from the site. The Traffic Impact Assessment focuses largely on road capacity, intersection performance and level of service. However, these measures do not adequately address the practical reality of school-related traffic movements and child safety.



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Of particular concern is that:

- no independent Road Safety Audit has been undertaken;
- no school-specific traffic impact assessment appears to have been completed;
- no assessment appears to have been undertaken of interactions between quarry traffic, school buses and parent vehicles;
- no assessment appears to have been undertaken of children's movements in the locality during peak school periods.

A road can continue to operate efficiently while still becoming less safe for children.

Parents have a reasonable expectation that school environments and school travel routes are afforded the highest level of protection.

Noise Impacts

The school is concerned that quarry operations and associated vehicle movements have the potential to affect the learning environment.

The Noise Assessment acknowledges that future quarry stages may require additional mitigation and further investigation before compliance can be confirmed. This indicates that some noise impacts remain uncertain and will be addressed after approval rather than before approval.

Schools require:

- quiet learning environments;
- clear verbal communication between teachers and students;
- outdoor educational activities;
- playground use free from unreasonable disturbance.

The school is concerned that the cumulative effects of quarry operations, truck movements and other industrial activities have not been adequately assessed from the perspective of educational outcomes.



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Air Quality and Student Health

Children are particularly vulnerable to air pollution and dust.

The proposal involves:

- vegetation clearing;
- excavation;
- stockpiling;
- vehicle movements;
- handling of sand products.

The school is concerned that insufficient attention has been given to the potential impacts of dust and particulate matter on:

- children's respiratory health;
- students with asthma and other respiratory conditions;
- outdoor school activities;
- long-term exposure over the life of the project.

Given the proximity of the school community to quarry haulage routes, we believe a more detailed assessment of potential health impacts on children is warranted.

Cumulative Impacts on the School Community

The school is concerned that impacts have largely been assessed individually rather than cumulatively.

Students and families do not experience:

- traffic impacts in isolation;
- noise impacts in isolation;
- dust impacts in isolation.

Rather, they experience all of these impacts together.



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The EIS does not appear to adequately consider the cumulative effect of:

- increased truck traffic;
 - changed road conditions;
 - noise;
 - dust;
 - community concern;
 - changes to local character and amenity.
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Precautionary Principle

The school notes that several technical assessments rely heavily upon:

- future monitoring;
- future review;
- future mitigation measures;
- adaptive management responses.

Where children are concerned, a precautionary approach is appropriate.

The school believes impacts should be demonstrated as acceptable before approval is granted, rather than relying on future management actions to address unforeseen problems.

Requested Outcome

Bobs Farm Public School respectfully requests that the Department:

1. Refuse the application unless it can be clearly demonstrated that the proposal will not adversely affect the safety, health and wellbeing of students and staff.
2. Require a comprehensive independent Road Safety Audit that specifically considers school children, school buses and school-related traffic.
3. Require a school-specific impact assessment addressing noise, air quality, traffic and cumulative impacts.



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4. Apply the precautionary principle when considering impacts on children and educational facilities.
5. Recognise Bobs Farm Public School as a highly sensitive receiver during the assessment and determination of the application.

Protecting children's safety, health and learning environment should be a primary consideration in any decision regarding this proposal.

Yours sincerely,

Bobs Farm Public School Community

Bobs Farm, NSW