

Robert Henderson

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Director – Infrastructure Assessments

NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

4 Parramatta Square, 12 Darcy Street

Parramatta NSW 2150

Objection to State Significant Development Application: Bobs Farm Sand Quarry (SSD-99860959 / SSD-6395)

Attention: Infrastructure Assessments Team

Dear Director,

I am writing to formally object to the proposed Bobs Farm Sand Quarry project. As a local resident, I am deeply concerned by the severe, irreversible environmental damage this project will inflict upon the Tomaree Peninsula's highly vulnerable groundwater systems and its critically endangered native wildlife populations.

While the applicant's revised documentation addresses dry sand extraction, the scale of the proposed clearing and landscape modification poses unacceptable ecological risks. I object to the development on the following environmental planning grounds:

1. Severe Threat to Endangered Koala Habitats and Wildlife Corridors

The project area consists of native bushland that serves as an essential, established wildlife corridor and supplementary habitat for the Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*), which is listed as Endangered under both NSW and Commonwealth legislation. Clearing tens of hectares of native vegetation will permanently fragment this corridor, isolating local populations and pushing them onto surrounding roads where roadkill rates are already devastating. Relocation is not a viable mitigation strategy, as the stress and habitat loss heavily will drive up mortality rates. The site also supports other threatened species, including the Powerful Owl and Squirrel Glider, which cannot survive this level of industrial disruption.

2. Permanent Degradation of the Subterranean Water Resource

The Tomaree Peninsula relies on a highly sensitive sand dune aquifer system. Removing millions of tons of sand radically alters the topography and strips away the natural sandy overburden that filters rainwater before it recharges the water table. Stripping this protective layer exposes the underlying aquifer to immediate risks of pollution from heavy machinery, fuel spills, and industrial runoff.

Furthermore, any alterations to local hydrology threaten neighboring properties and local agricultural producers, such as nearby avocado farms, who are entirely dependent on stable, unpolluted groundwater levels for their livelihoods.

3. Acid Sulfate Soil and Acidity Risks

Extractive sand mining in this specific coastal zone carries a high risk of exposing and disrupting acid sulfate soils. If these soils are disturbed or the local water table fluctuates unnaturally due to the removal of the sand mass, it can trigger severe acidification of the surrounding soil and groundwater and the surrounding waterways. This would have a catastrophic, toxic impact on the surrounding native flora and also due to the extensive drainage system installed due to the high water table throughout the lower areas adjoining this site, any contaminated water will reach the broader catchment area and have a serious effect on the associated marine life.

Conclusion

The Tomaree Peninsula's identity and economy are built on its "bush meets the sea" character and thriving eco-tourism. Replacing a critical, biodiverse ecosystem with a large-scale industrial sand mine compromises the area's primary water source and accelerates the local extinction risk for our endangered koalas. The long-term environmental costs of this project vastly outweigh any short-term commercial benefits. I strongly urge the Department to uphold strict environmental standards and reject this application.

Thank you for considering this submission. I confirm that I have not made any reportable political donations within the past two years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Henderson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert Henderson [9/08/2026]