

Project name: Shoalhaven Hydro Expansion Project-Main Works
Application number: SSI-10033
Submission by Paul Obern Director of Pest Problems Pest Control Pty
Ltd
407B Bendeela Road, Kangaroo Valley, NSW, 2577.

4th December 2022

Pest Problems Pest Control is based at 407B Bendeela Road and has been operating successfully, providing pest control services within Kangaroo Valley since 2006.

I acknowledge the opportunity to make this submission and confirm that I object and am totally opposed to the proposed project.

Construction associated with the expansion project is anticipated to last 5 years, this time frame assumes no delays but at best means continuous construction and associated vehicle noise for at least five years and likely longer. The intrusive noise in an area previously to a great extent and particularly between dusk and 7am, noise disturbance free, will impact severely on sleep patterns and therefore on individual ability to perform necessary business activities effectively during the projects duration of construction.

Recently the NSW Water yard between 407A/B and 407D Bendeela Road was used to store and load road base for use repairing landslide damage to Kangaroo Valley routes. This involved loading trucks and truck movements into the night. My wife and I lodged a complaint regarding this noise with Shoalhaven Council, and were informed that it was nothing to do with council as the yard belonged to NSW Water. Why excess noise within Shoalhaven Council area was deemed nothing to do with Shoalhaven Council Environmental Health Department was not explained in the reply we received.

An emailed complaint to NSW Water gained acknowledgement by email of receipt, but other than that the complaint was completely ignored with no further contact. The proposed

project is far larger, requiring far more frequent vehicle movements. This level of noise may be acceptable in a built up area but not in a rural environment.

Pest Problems Pest Control Pty Ltd work methodology requires staff to wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), both during application of pesticides but also due to dust particles present in roof voids and due to soil disturbance when entering subfloors, both operations staff perform on an almost daily basis. A vital component of PPE required is a dust mask / respirator.

The dust generated across the Bendeela and Jacks Corner Road environment due to extracting and tipping thousands of tonnes of spoil and mixing the considerable quantities of cement necessary for tunnel construction. Will create a pollution breathing hazard of unacceptable proportions.

I should note that due to previous cancer treatment I not only suffer from asthma but also am at risk of developing fibrosis of the lung which necessitates the wearing of a medical alert tag and being included on the medical alert register.

Section 6.8.3.1 of the EIS contains a table of residences that will be adversely affected by construction noise levels above those usually present in the locality. 407B Bendeela Road is not included on the list despite being less than 200m from the project.

The Environmental Impact Statement prepared for Origin Energy by Jacobs uses wind monitoring statistics from Nowra, Albion Park and Moss Vale all of which have totally different topography and therefore wind velocities than those common to Kangaroo Valley. If the data is not collected in Kangaroo Valley then any conclusions drawn from it will be flawed. Particularly if the data is being erroneously relied upon to predict the spread and distribution of airborne dust pollution particles created as a result of the project.

A study at the Australian National University, published in *The Conversation* 11th November 2022. Identifies over 3000 low cost potential sites around Australia, where installation of pumped hydro facilities are an option. Capable of providing 300 times more supply than required in Australia. Of these sites there have to be a proportion able to be developed without the huge environmental and social drawbacks inherent in the Shoalhaven scheme

Appendix Q of the EIS 6.13.4.5 Business and industry, claims that the project is expected to have positive impacts for local businesses, then goes on to state:

Potential amenity changes (including traffic noise, dust and visual amenity) are most likely to affect businesses that rely on a quieter business environment, such as visitor accommodation, cafes and restaurants, wedding and function venues, and wellness retreats.

For Pest Problems Pest Control Pty Ltd whilst not relying on a noise or dust free environment to perform pest control operations within Kangaroo Valley. Relies to a great extent for physical and mental wellbeing on being able to carry out office duties, sleep and have a noise free out of work hours environment in which to operate and live. Mental health issues are a medically documented concern to resident staff and the guaranteed likelihood of deteriorating adverse mental health impacts caused by this project are unacceptable.

The negative impact on tourist numbers due to the tarnishing of Kangaroo Valley's image with potential visitors developing negative perceptions of the Valley as a no longer peaceful and tranquil destination.

The associated reduction in visitor numbers to the predominantly high end accommodations offered throughout Kangaroo Valley will directly and deleteriously affect Pest Problems Pest Control Pty Ltd as at least 40% of company business is providing proactive, preventative pest control services to Valley accommodations. The possibility of having construction contractors billeted in their

pristine premises as a compensation for lost tourism revenue is unlikely to be seized upon by owners aiming at attracting the highly remunerative top end holiday let renters to their properties.

Conclusion.

The proposed Shoalhaven Hydro Expansion is a project biased toward the profit driven rationale of Origin Energy at the expense of local Kangaroo Valley businesses.

The fact that the project is only viable due to a massive injection of public monies, which would be better spent on fostering the Valley's potential for environmentally responsible tourism and ensuring visitors wishing to come can enjoy constantly available road access, rather than badly maintained roadways existing at present.

Thank you for reading this submission.