

Lucinda van Buuren

East Seaham

Friday, 14 July 2023

To: The Director Resource Assessments, Jessie Evans

I, Lucinda van Buuren, **OBJECT** to the proposal for the Stone Ridge Quarry Project (SSD-10432) due to the following reasons;

- a) Loss of natural habitat and biodiversity. This state forest is home to several animals being koalas, squirrel gliders, brush-tailed phascogales and some threatened bird species, bats and orchids.
- b) This is State Forest and Worimi Land, and we should not support anymore conscious destruction of any natural habitat and biodiversity.
- c) The Worimi Land Council and the Aboriginal Elders – are suggested in document <https://majorprojects.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/prweb/PRRestService/mp/01/getContent?AttachRef=SSD-10432%2120230116T055744.376%20GMT> to be requested and consulted with and to contribute their specific traditional cultural voice to this proposal being Stone Ridge Quarry Project which will ultimately lead to a significant destruction of Balickera State Forest, and I ask as a community member that they be formerly consulted, and their consultation made public for review. If I am correct, it seems that traditional Aboriginal Culture works in harmony with the land, and I would imagine this is not something that would be of harmony. I ask that we have a community meeting with the local Worimi Elders with an open heart and mind to learn and understand their traditional cultural position on this proposal and their foresight of the fate for this part of Balickera Forest and how that relates to traditional Aboriginal Culture.
- d) The purpose of the Forestry Corporation of NSW (FCNSW) is sustainable forest management (to manage state forests as forests) . By approving a quarry, you are actively consciously approving and supporting the destruction of this part of the state forest and that is not the objectives of the individuals representing the Forestry Corporation of NSW.
- e) Italia Rd has not been a viable, wide appropriate, safe and maintained road for normal and excess traffic prior to the expansion of the Brandy Hill Quarry. This road is used by many locals and travellers coming from Maitland travelling North and back daily and on weekends. With the already approved expansion of the Brandy Hill Quarry, many trucks now utilise Italia Road and now the road has been in far worse condition than prior to the expansion.

We have had a fatality on this road just over a year ago and we have had a car land in a tree, six months ago.

The road constantly breaks up and is dangerous. Port Stephens council are actually doing substantial work on the road now however we need to ensure the road can safely

accommodate the traffic that it caters for now before we can possibly consider the road is suitable for any more traffic, namely trucks.

- f) The noise vibration and dust from the blasting explosives impacts already the local community, animals and wildlife, health and wellbeing.
- g) The blasting is already affecting the air quality and natural water systems.
- h) I put forward a suggestion that Balickera State Forest should remain in its natural state and put forth the proposal that Balickera State Forest be placed on the green agenda for Worimi Land Council, where it can be restored, maintained and enjoyed by our Worimi people, all native fauna, animal wildlife and the Port Stephens community, for its cultural heritage and abundant natural habitat. Maybe Worimi can restore it as a community camping Forest for all to share in harmony?

I Lucinda van Buuren, OBJECT in full of the proposal of Stone Ridge Quarry Project (SSD-10432)

Can you please acknowledge receipt of my formal objection to the proposal for Stone Ridge Quarry.

Yours Sincerely,

Lucinda van Buuren