

Submission to the NSW Planning Department in relation to the: -

Stone Ridge Quarry Project Proposal

I request that the Stone Ridge Quarry Project be rejected for the reasons outlined as follows: -

1) Unacceptable Environmental and Biodiversity Impacts

The project will result in the clearance of an approximate 80ha portion of Wallaroo State Forest that is known to be inhabited by a koala population listed as a threatened species. Clearance of this forest habitat will adversely impact the koalas and other threatened species identified as including: -

Grey-headed Flying-fox
Yellow bellied Glider
Spotted-tailed Quoll
Swift Parrot
New Holland Mouse
South-eastern Glossy Black Cockatoo

The forest itself is significant as it comprises elements of a nationally listed endangered ecological community of subtropical eucalypt floodplain forest and other endangered flora including native orchids. Due to its specific location, it intersects three types of climate corridors (moist, dry, and coastal) essential for the migration of threatened species in response to climate change impacts. If as a society we are to effectively respond to impending climate change, in line with National and State Government objectives, then we need to maintain enough suitable habitat to support the native impacted species and cease destroying what we have. Biodiversity offsetting is not a feasible option, due to a lack of suitable habitat within the identified crucial climate refuge corridors.

2) Inappropriate use of State Forest Resources and Non-compliance with Forestry Act.

Proposed Quarry activities are incompatible with multiple objectives of the Forestry Corporation of NSW as outlined in the Forestry Act. Including the following: -

Have regard for the community in which it operates

Operate within the principles of ecologically sustainable development

- Conservation of biological diversity
- Intergenerational equity
- Ecological integrity

Support of this project by the Forestry Corporation of NSW is inappropriate as it will benefit from income if the project proceeds and this presents a significant conflict of interest and represents an unethical response for a State Government Department accountable to the community.

This project is not a sustainable development and the proponent's justification of the need to satisfy demand for the rock from this location is incorrect. There exist other resources of hard rock that are accessible without the destruction of endangered ecological sites and habitat.

3) Conclusion

A precedent has already been set by not approving the Martins Creek Quarry Proposal because the unacceptable adverse consequences could not be mitigated. The unacceptable adverse environmental and biodiversity implications of the Stoney Ridge Quarry cannot be mitigated and the proposed project should be disallowed on this basis alone.

Allan Evans
Condor Circuit,
Lambton
NSW 2299

0412 170 871