

My name is Daniel Provost (36) and I live at 735 Fernbank creek Rd, Thrumster. I live there with my wife and our 2 children (age 6 and 2).

We also run a small horse riding business at Cassegrain winery, that employs a 8 staff. We offer NDIS and tourism activities showing off the beauty of our local environment.
We have been struggling with the drought. Keeping our animals fed, watered and healthy is becoming extremely expensive and challenging (a common story for our rural communities).
We were hit by the recent fires in our region and managed to save our house primarily due to the help of the sancrox/thrumster firefighters who battled and defended our home, property and business. They were fantastic, true hero's.

I write today having only recently being made aware of the proposed expansion of the quarry at Sancrox and extension of hours of operation.

I write in opposition to the expansion and the increase in operation hours on a number of different grounds:

1. The impact to our family. We can currently hear the quarry works: trucks reversing, crushing, loading, we can feel explosions through the day and if the works were expanded and ran 24 hours a day it would definitely disturb my family and our animals. This noise pollution and vibrations would also lower our property value.

2. Environmental impact. There has been large scale clearing around this area in the last year. Further clearing would, in my view, be excessive and impact our local native flora and fauna extremely negatively (particularly at the moment when so much of our bush has been destroyed by fire.)

I would also question the negative impact of the development on a larger scale in relation to our climate changing. Not only would the tree clearing have a large negative impact but the increased emissions from a quarry mining the environment and the activities directly related to that, has to pollute on a large scale more than it did previously.

3. Negatively Impact our business. An increase in noise (crushing, blasting and other activities) would impact us negatively from a safety and environmental aspect. Horses react dangerously to loud noises and vibrations. One of the reasons we have NDIS clients, tourists and other clients is due to the fact that we provide a calm, safe place for people to ride. The proposed expansion and development would increase the noise and pollution we experience.

My concern is that we will lose clients, combine that with increased feed prices, increase insurance prices our business would not be viable.

There are many other people in this area that would be negatively impacted by the proposed expansion (College Rise, my neighbours (eastern side of the highway), residence of Sancrox and surrounds and new developments) and I am not sure if they have been consulted or are aware of the Quarry's desire to expand? I say this because we didn't know until recently and we have never been consulted nor informed.

I note in the Social impact assessment that it did not reference the houses on the eastern side of the highway, nor the other development projects currently taking place in the area.

In my view the expansion is would impact all of the other residence and businesses in the area negatively by way of noise disturbance (new and expanded operations), pollution (air and waterway) and increased operations hours.

Considering the fires and the extensive clearing that has taken place in the area recently, clearing that dense bushland would be excessive and detrimental to our flora and fauna.

I extend an invitation to come to my house and our place of business. Have a look at the clearing that has recently taken place and the extent of damage the fires have made. Also listen to the current noise/vibrations/dust aesthetic of the quarry and its operations and imagine that increased and running 24 hours a day. I think you would agree that this proposed development would have an extremely unhealthy impact on our area.

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