

Kate Rochester

397 Cabbage Tree Road

Williamtown NSW 2318

Subject : Submission on Cabbage Tree Road Sand Quarry Modification 3 (SSD-6125-Mod-3)

This submission is a joint submission from the following people who were either provided with a letter from the Department of Planning and Environment or are residents directly impacted by the Cabbage Tree Road Sand Quarry.

Kate Rochester

Sahra Garside

Liam Farmer

Shaun Farmer

Keiron Rochester

We OBJECT to the application (number SSD-6125-Mod-3) for the reasons set out in this submission.

The applicant's arguments for Consequences of Not Carrying out the Modification are contradictory. It is suggested the modification should be approved because there would be a deficit in the sand resources available on the market.

This would suggest the resource is scarce and therefore should demand a higher price in the market coupled with additional revenue from processing offsite material, but the applicant is requesting changes to the modifications to their consent conditions including sand operational methods, biodiversity offsets etc to reduce costs.

Obviously as prices increase the applicant will have an increased ability to pay higher costs, therefore the original consent conditions should be maintained or steps should be taken by the applicant to reduce the impact to local residents to below the current levels.

Insufficient Consultation

The applicant, Williamtown Sand Syndicate has not adequately consulted with the local community.

This development had significant opposition from the local community during the original development application lasting a number of years. Given this opposition it would be reasonable for the applicant to engage with the local community similar to the engagement undertaken during the original application.

There has been no direct consultation with affected residents, and although the application states this proposal has been discussed twice at the Cabbage Tree Road Consultative Committee meetings,

as of 27th October 2023 there is no mention of this readily available in the meeting minutes on the applicant's website.

We would request a Public Hearing to be held in January 2024 (school holiday period would allow maximum number of participants) on the proposed modification to allow the local community to ask relevant questions, discuss concerns and seek remedies from the applicant for any highlighted issues.

Laden Truck Entry to Site

The applicant is seeking to transport sand from the local area to the sand quarry for processing. Although unclear in the application, these laden movements should be included in the existing truck movements (for example, *a maximum 10 loaded trucks allowed to enter or leave the site each hour*) There has been a number of complaints to the applicant regarding truck noise since the commencement of operations particularly during early hours of the morning when local residents may still be trying to sleep. This will be magnified if laden trucks are allowed to operate from 6am weekdays.

Given the significantly louder noise generated from laden trucks than empty trucks due to braking requirements, laden trucks entering the site should be limited to commencing from 8am daily.

Alternatively the sand quarry should reduce truck movement times to align with quarry operating times.

To ensure compliance, the applicant should be required to monitor and report on their website, all hourly laden truck movements.

Ban use of bore or ground water for processing

The Department will be aware of the PFAS issues in the Williamstown area. The local community continues to have significant concerns around the long term affects of PFAS and spreading of affected water. Although the applicant has a small number of testing locations on site these do not sufficient cover the full quarry area.

A condition of any washing or processing must be that NO bore or ground water to be used by the applicant regardless of PFAS levels recorded at the limited bore locations.

No change to current conveyor operations

The applicant has requested approval to change the current operations of Front End Loader and Conveyor to Excavator and Trucks. Although the application suggests a reduction in noise, it does not consider the additional truck noise. The proposed excavator and truck operation is a lower cost operation for the quarry operator but may be a higher total noise operation and therefore may increase the noise emitted from the site. Given the applicant is seeking to reduce its cost of operations to the detriment of local residents, the impact to residents should be minimised.

No change to current operations should be approved unless additional noise mitigations are put in place by the applicant if requested by any local resident at the resident's site.

No change to current biodiversity credit obligations

The applicant has requested to change the biodiversity credits and remove the requirement for the Eastern Osprey biodiversity credit. There is no reason to change the biodiversity requirements except to reduce the costs to the applicant.

This is a very specific area of approvals that needs experienced and knowledgeable people to ensure the applicant is maintaining a balance between what they are destroying and what they are preserving. Costs should not be a factor when discussing biodiversity offsets and the Eastern Osprey is listed as Vulnerable and should be protected. All consultants noted in the proposal have been paid by the applicant and therefore are conflicted.

The applicant should not be allowed to change any offset conditions from the original consent conditions with regards to Koalas and the other stated native species just to save money. An independent expert (selected by the Department) should be required to undertake a full review of the proposed changes and their impact including the Eastern Osprey habitat (possible damage to roosts or nests by the operations etc).

No change to the resource area

The proposed changes to the resource area brings the quarry operations significantly closer to local residents, increasing the disturbance to these residents. This should not be approved unless affected residents agree.

The applicant should not be allowed to change resource areas closer to residents unless they receive written agreement from all affected residents.

Traffic Island modifications

Local residents have requested on multiple occasions that the quarry operator modify the traffic island to allow safer entry into private driveways in the vicinity of the quarry entry (see Community Consultative Committee meeting minutes). Although the quarry operator has suggested this is an issue for TfNSW to fix, we are aware that TfNSW will do these necessary works if the quarry pays for them.

As this is a significant issue for local residents any modification approval should include a reduction to the width of the traffic island at the entrance of the quarry.

Regards,