

Attention: Minister for Planning

Reference: Opposing the Eagleton Hard Rock Quarry Development

Application No.: SSD 7332

To whom it may concern,

As local residents, we are again writing to express our previous and current concerns with and lodge our objection to the above-mentioned development application.

We have owned our property for 25 years and during this time we have experienced periods of increased activity from the local Boral Quarry and also the added trucks from the landscaping business when it moved to our area. We are also now facing yet another quarry proposal known as Stone Ridge Quarry. As a result, we are looking at a large increase in activity, which we believe will result in constant truck movements passing our home. We have a number of concerns that will be exacerbated further by this proposed additional development.

We already experience much higher noise levels now than when we first purchased our property, some of which include trucks entering Italia Rd from the Pacific Hwy and passing our home from as early as 4am, waking our entire household. With the current level of heavy vehicles travelling past our residence, the addition of yet another quarry will only exacerbate these issues.

Other noise issues include

- Excessive use of air brakes when approaching the Italia Rd / Pacific Hwy intersection both from the Pacific Highway when entering Italia Rd and from Italia Rd when exiting via the Pacific Hwy.
- Trucks travelling at high speeds when passing our driveway approaching the intersection, making the entrance to our home unsafe.

Access to our driveway with the current level of traffic at times means we are unable to enter or exit our driveway due to traffic banking up down Italia Rd and have had a few near misses of being hit from behind whilst trying to turn into our driveway. This issue will only be increased and create a significantly higher danger for all family members and visitors.

Noise, vibrations and dust are all concerns we have from the development stage right through to operating at maximum capacity. Not just from the quarry itself which will be in close proximity to our home, but the trucks travelling past our residence as they create noise and release dust into the air. We have health concerns associated with the excessive dust including the effects on asthma sufferers, which we have in our household and the effects it may have on our water supply and pumping equipment. Dust particles land on clothes hanging on the clothes lines, outdoor furniture, roofs and gutters which then enter our water storage tanks, settle on our motor vehicles and enter into our swimming pool and our house. Our newly upgraded household water filtration system requires replacement of filtration cartridges frequently and we note that this replacement is much more regularly than recommended by the manufacturer. Added truck movements and the operation of the quarry itself would only increase these issues. We see the same issues with the filtration system for our pool.

We feel there has been a lack of investigation in relation to air quality including the potential to cause silicosis and other health conditions for us given where we reside in relation to the proposal. The current level of dust is already at high levels and this will only be increased, which in turn will mean we will need to clean more frequently than we already do. We are also concerned about property damage from blasting's.

Water at the proposed quarry also raises many concerns for us. We can see from proposed plans that there will be holding dams progressively installed on the quarry site, if these were to reach capacity and overflow what is the management plan that would be put in place for this? The proposal does not show nor explain in detail all of the current creeks or water flow plans. There is a creek that runs through our property which leads to a holding dam near the Pacific Highway, which already struggles to clear water fast enough under the Pacific Highway. What would be the plan in the event of a major storm like that we saw in April 2015?

Clearing of vegetation will in turn will create more run off in this area, how will this water be controlled and managed and will the adding in of new roads, bridges and holding dams effect where the water will run and what route will it take from the quarry to make its way into the dam?

The approved new right of carriageway under DA 16-2021-160-1 for the use of all properties located along Barleigh Ranch Way that connects Barleigh Ranch Way with Italia Road, located to the east of the old right of carriageway also raises concerns for us, given that it is located across the road from our home, we feel that we will now hear more noises from the trucks as they head to and from the existing landscaping business and proposed new quarry. The new intersection where this road will meet Italia Road will also mean more frequent stop/starts from the increase in heavy vehicles, meaning more noise in front of our home and comes with the increased risk of accidents with vehicles slowing to enter this road soon after turning off the Pacific Highway, potential issues with exiting this road onto Italia Road with the existing amount of traffic flying down the road already and also stormwater runoff and dust from this road. Whilst it is stated that Eagleton Rock Syndicate remains committed to the maintenance of this new right of carriageway, we have concerns as to how often this would be maintained and the associated noise and dust that would come with this as it will not be a tared surface and would have a high level of heavy vehicles travelling on it daily. We also have very high concerns in relation to the swale drain on the side of the right of carriageway as the proposal states that the management of stormwater along the new right- of- carriageway will be achieved through installation of a swale drain along the eastern (highway) side, with connection to Council's existing drainage system along Italia Road.

We can advise now that the stormwater drain on Italia Road that releases water onto our fence line does not currently cope and we have had to make a spoon drain of sorts to stop the water from this drain flowing across our property and pooling in front of and under our house, which we did not want to do as it now divides our land and ruins the visual aspect and also requires more work to maintain compared to when we just had a lawn there. We feel this drain should not be dispersing water where it currently does and to add the runoff from this new road will only make matters worse for us. Surely this would have had to of been assessed?

Proposed operating hours are also a concern as this is our family home where we spend most of our time and feel that the operating hours and increase in heavy vehicle movements would be extremely intrusive. We would like to know what times the heavy vehicles would be able to enter and exit Italia Road, given that our residence will be the only one that all these trucks would be passing and how would these times be policed, given the issues we are currently experiencing.

Noise from heavy vehicles including the excessive use of compression brakes can be very intrusive. Noise can interfere with speech, disturb sleep or interrupt work. Prolonged exposure to loud noise can also result in increased heart rate, anxiety, irritability, hearing loss and other health effects. Whilst we understand impacts of noise depend on the noise level and its characteristics, you must take into account that the way in which noise is perceived by the person affected can vary.

In the 25 years we have lived here we have witnessed many accidents, plenty more than what have been disclosed in this proposal. There have been many instances where police and ambulance have attended and in one case also the Westpac Rescue Helicopter. The addition of further truck movements per day will only increase the risk of accidents.

We also cannot understand how DA's are being submitted for these quarries without the current Pacific Highway intersection issues being addressed. Whilst we understand that Boral Quarry will be submitting a DA in relation to this on behalf of all 3 quarries, why has this not been the first point of concern. Italia Road is already struggling with the current amount of traffic that travels along it and the Pacific Highway intersection is already inadequate for the current level of traffic. Whilst we have seen some plans in relation to the intersection upgrade, we as a key landowner have not been kept in the loop at all in relation to these upgrades, despite asking many questions on numerous occasions. We find it disturbing to see our property shown on these proposed upgrades. Some plans we have viewed have left us with many questions in relation to the proposed slip lane and its proximity to our fence line and use of land.

The lack of communication we have experienced in relation to the surveying of land for this upgrade has been nothing short of disgusting with surveyors trespassing onto our property and installing star pickets and marker posts and even the cutting of a few trees. The fact that we are not being kept in the loop is disappointing to say the least. Seems we were not considered relevant enough for anyone to make contact, which then poses many other questions in relation to this proposal.

Italia Road is not a haul road. It was never built to be a haul road, however seems it is being looked at as a haul road, which it most certainly is not. It has become so much busier over the years and is in no shape to be used by so many large heavy vehicles that in turn need to share this road with the residents, holiday makers and so many people that use this road as a short cut whilst towing caravans, boats, horse floats, riding motor cycles etc.

It doesn't matter which way we look at this, our lifestyle will be negatively impacted. Working from home on a fulltime basis means the ability to have meetings without noise interruption will be a constant concern. This could potentially affect our ability to earn an income.

We are extremely concerned that this DA will negatively impact the value of our property and cannot foresee a future where we can continue to live our current lifestyle in our home should this DA be approved, nor the lifestyle we had planned for once we reached retirement age. This has been our home for the past 25 years and we purchased here knowing that the Boral Quarry was in operation as we looked into this prior to purchasing our home, so were aware of its lifespan and therefore aware of its closure date. We did not foresee a landscaping business moving into the area, nor Boral Quarry looking to extend the life of its existing quarry and on top of this we also have the concern of another possible new quarry across the road from Boral Quarry which then poses many more issues and questions in relation to this DA.

We question the assessments that have been carried out in relation to this DA and the other 2 quarries as feel an assessment should be carried out on all three quarries as a whole and look into the cumulative effects that all 3 would have if they were to be approved and running in unison.

Whilst we understand infrastructure and the need for the resources that quarries can provide, we find ourselves in an incomprehensible situation, seeing as truck movements will be greatly increased if this DA was to be approved. We cannot see how we will be able to live with the huge impacts this proposal will bring. The proposal has caused stress and anxiety throughout our family and the surrounding community and we do not believe our residence and lives within it have been given enough consideration.

The uncertainty and the lack of communication has left us feeling as though our lives and everything that we have worked so hard for means absolutely nothing to this development.

It would be most appreciated if you would acknowledge receipt of this submission.