

Margo Duncan

**192 East Seaham Road
East Seaham**

**8 Killaloe Lane
East Seaham**

6th November, 2023

**Minister for Planning
Planning Services
Department of Planning and En
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY, NSW 2001**

Proposed Eagleton Quarry Project

Application Number: SSD-7332

Location: Lot 2 DP1108702, 13 Barleigh Ranch Way, Eagleton

To Whom it May Concern,

I am making a submission against this proposed project.

This project is proposed for an area within a major water catchment area that supplies water to Newcastle and beyond, and is also adjacent to large agricultural holdings.

I am a long time resident of East Seaham, having been in the area since 1972. I own and operate a large scale beef cattle enterprise at East Seaham, running approximately 800 cows – this is not small scale, it is my livelihood and shows complete disregard and lack of understanding of the communities within 5kms of the proposed project. My business alone employs 8 people from the local community.

There has been a failure to engage the wider communities of East Seaham, Eagleton and the township of Seaham, as very few residents and/or businesses have been consulted about this proposal. There are many residents and businesses that will be severely impacted by this project.

My Environmental Concerns –

I have major environmental concerns as listed below:

- Displacement and/or destruction of existing flora and fauna. Loss of koala (endangered species) habitat, along with other fauna habitats that cannot be replaced.
- Water quality is a major concern, as this proposed project is very close to Grahamstown Dam – a major water supply to Newcastle and beyond. Seven Mile Creek is a tributary that flows to the Dam and I have concerns about the impact the project would have on this water source.
- Dust pollution not only affects water quality, but also has an impact air quality and on my farm, along with domestic water supplies from water tanks.
- Weed control – introduction of weeds through vehicle movements is a major biosecurity concern. As this is a major domestic water catchment area, weed control is a very large problem, as the weeds can spread rapidly via wind, water and feral animals, and indiscriminate or uncontrolled spraying within a catchment area is not acceptable.

- Feral animals – failure to control and/or eradicate feral animals would mean these would push them onto private lands, again creating both a biosecurity issue and/or putting domestic animals and landholders at risk of injury or death. Control is absolutely paramount, and again, this is a major water catchment area.

Other Concerns –

- I have concerns about ground vibration and overpressure as a result of blasting, as, if the blasts are not properly designed and controlled, then neighbouring properties have the potential of significant damage – this is irreversible.
- I have major concerns about the impact on the local roads, as well as access to the Pacific Highway, that the number of truck movements per day (estimated at a possible 65/day), will put a major burden on these roads. How can they guarantee that no trucks will travel west along Italia Road? Italia Road is also a school bus route, and this volume of trucks will have a very big impact on the safety of school buses travelling this road. I have major concerns that there is the possibility of accidents, not just on Italia Road, but also entering to/from the Pacific Highway. The local roads are certainly not suited to heavy vehicle traffic, and are not well maintained. There is no curb and guttering, and most of the roads are quite narrow and only suitable for local traffic.
- This proposed project will severely impact on the ability of the wider community to have quiet enjoyment of their properties, due to the long hours of operation, noise production and the volume of traffic that has been projected.
- This project will also have a significant impact on property rights and property values. While I do understand there are some economic benefits, there is also the consideration if these benefits will be advantageous to the wider local community, or will the issues that have been raised outweigh these benefits? I firmly believe that our property prices will greatly decrease, putting pressure on the future of our business. We currently pay rather large council rates, but have no utilities associated with this, other than roadside garbage collection.
- I believe all the issues raised are far greater than the economic benefits, as the local communities will not directly benefit in the long term, particularly as the proposed project will destroy forever a significant area of wildlife habitat, and the residual effect of this project will create long term negative effects, not only on the environment, but also on the community as a whole.
- The significance of ‘Sustainable Livelihoods Approach’ should be noted here – *“A livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets and activities required for a means of living. A livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stresses and shocks and maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets both now and in the future, while not undermining the natural resource base.”* The type of project proposed will severely impact the livelihood of every resident in the area.
- I understand there is the need to source natural resources, but consideration must also be given to those other resources that help to feed the country! In many cases, these farms have been successfully operating for many years, and sustainable agriculture is one of our primary means of existence.

- There are major concerns about the risk of fire. If there were to be a fire that started as a result of work in this project, then this would have a major impact on not only residents, but also surrounding areas, as well as the water quality in Grahamstown Dam from ash fallout.
- There needs to be community meetings that include all those parties who have an interest in the relevance of this proposal and the impact on the wider community.
- There is already an existing quarry adjacent to this proposed project, and to have another next door will significantly multiply the effects of noise, traffic, dust and loss of significant native habitat.

Yours sincerely

Margo Duncan