

Submission opposing Sutton Forest Sand Quarry.

I strongly object to the Sutton Forest Quarry.

I moved to this area in Sutton Forest, Hanging Rock Rd 8yrs ago from Sydney. I moved here seeking a quiet rural life, set amongst the beautiful natural bush setting that is now my backyard. This Quarry will completely destroy the environment I've worked so hard to develop on my rural block. I love horses and enjoy riding down in the bush areas that will possibly border with this quarry. I am tired of the stress this proposal is causing me and this community.

This quarry will have a very large impact on us and the nearby residence. I know there are many residential properties within a 5km radius of this quarry, who rely on income from the tourism with short term rentals such as my neighbours.

My property backs onto the quarry and NO amount of tree planting & noise bunds will mitigate the 24hr noise and dust this quarry will generate, people don't want to stay where construction noise is 24hrs a day!.

I consider myself as someone who cares for the land, my family and I have been busy over last several years planting trees improving the bushland for the wildlife including native birds & animals. This is our family home. We always gather here for family functions, and celebrations, my children and grandchildren visit often and help work the property. They also love this environment, enjoying the bush, the freedom and space to play.

This Quarry threatens our home and our way of life. It is wrong on so many levels.

I am concerned about:

Risk to Health: Dust air pollution

This is 95% silica sandstone. So Ripping, Crushing and processing on site then loading transporting it presents significant risk, the risk of respiratory illness is creating stress & anxiety within our local community.. I am a Registered Nurse and well aware of the risk of Respiratory illness from long term exposure to dust, not just Silicosis but also other illnesses such as Asthma, pulmonary fibrosis, bronchitis and heart disease. Not just to people but also the risk to animals. Long term exposure is a serious concern.

Water:

Government Dept such as the OEH and Water NSW have highlighted major concerns for the impact this could have on hydrology systems lowering the watertable, even the proponents have written, "Impact way of life" there is a Medium risk to changes to the quality & quantity of water pg197-198.

This ecosystem is too fragile and important to allow a project like this. They document this will effect our bores and the watertable dropping it an unknown amount. Not good enough. The data is inconsistent and changes depending on location in reports and summaries. We all need reliable supply of water and are completely dependant on our bores.

Several neighbours also rely on water supply for there income, this will possibly cause economic impacts on them.

Effects this will have on Long Swamp and its Ecology

This is classed as a Threatened Ecosystem by the OEH. Damage to Long swamp creek is a real risk with changes to the water flow underground by removing the sandstone that act as a massive filter. Damage from surface water, silt runoff into the swamp and smaller creeks feeding it. But the long term effect of the backfill products, breaking down and polluting the area with contaminants is huge risk. The only mitigating plan is **they** will monitor the fill coming in! Again, not good enough.

Traffic concerns

When reviewing the Traffic Appendix, I note it said smaller vehicles of the quarry can use Hanging rock Rd for doing U-tune ,they grossly understated the traffic on Hanging rock road, I know there are many more truck movements a cars on this road than what was states. This just leads me to question all the other data used to justify this project. Trying to completely mislead us. We know this area far to well.

Noise /Vibration and Light pollution. 24hrs day

Again the only mitigating plan is to monitor! But no mention of action. This will ruin the view of the night sky and disorientate the nocturnal animals. I will destroy the quiet tranquil environment we have. I hear the singing from the Monastery when they have their services which is lovely, I don't want it over ridden by construction, ripping and bulldozer noise, which it will!

Damaging the peace & tranquillity of the area

Special note to Shine of our Lady of Mercy, they get a monitor to measure noise, a mitigation strategy but

what action (if any) will they take if noise exceeds? I don't trust they will even check those monitors. Just keep digging.

Environment damage to the Great Western Wildlife corridor *12 threatened or endangered species identified on this property alone, including the koala, Gang Gang, Glossy Black, Powerful Owl*

This location is at the most narrow part of the corridor. There are known Koala tracking's to the North West of the pit. This is now a Threatened Species!! We should be protecting their habitat. As I mentioned prior, I helped plant trees for the "Land care Project" a Wingecarribee Shire program to help strengthen the habitat for the Gang Gang and other animals using the corridor.

Indigenous Art in the rock shelf.

- It has been deemed Highly significant and culturally important by the Local Indigenous Community and the OEH.

Visible modelling diagram

This quarry will be very visible from the highway and surrounding properties.

Even they acknowledge it will remain very visible despite tree planting mitigation.

Effect on Tourism

This is the entrance to the Southern Highlands, Tourism plays an important part of our economy.

As mentioned above There are many in this area who rely on Air B&B type accommodation for income, there

are Several Wineries and Restaurants and thousands of visitors come to the area for the Church services at the Shrine of our lady of Mercy. They do spend money in the area.

Many more Jobs are generated by this tourism in this area than would be by having a quarry.

Issues of Trust in this company

EPA history POOR. At least 24 fines in NSW since 2012 , currently 33 charges in VIC We don't trust them Nor should Government departments with this level of disregard for regulations.

This area has many unique qualities about it, that's why we choose to live here. It is special, it needs protecting. These amendments do little if NOTHING to mitigate the risk of damage. They are merely words to appease the DPE. Please reject this quarry.