

2 December 2023

Planning Services  
Department of Planning & Environment  
GPO Box 39  
Sydney NSW 2001

**Attention: Director - Resource Assessments**

**Re: The proposed Sutton Forest Quarry Project: SSD 6334 - Submission**

I make the following submission on the above referenced project. I strongly object to this proposed project and note the following concerns:

- **Environmental Impact:** The proposed mine is set to devastate 63 hectares of native vegetation in an ecologically sensitive area, particularly at the critical narrowest point of the Great Western Wildlife Corridor. The resulting continuous dust, noise, and light pollution over a span of 30 years may cause irreparable harm to the wildlife habitat, endangering numerous species already classified as vulnerable.
- **Water Consequences:** This open-pit mine is projected to dig 39 meters below the existing water table, impacting the aquifer. The mining processes, as well as the replacement of sandstone with backfill and toxic materials, may lead to pollution in the nearby Long Swamp, potentially causing permanent damage to the Nepean/Sydney water catchment area. Furthermore, the substantial water license requirement will divert precious water from agriculture to industry.
- **Rehabilitation Concerns:** Upon the conclusion of the proposed 30-year mining operation, the community will be left with a 47-hectare hole that has been only partially filled (12%). There is a significant risk of further mining activities or inappropriate filling, with minimal chances of proper rehabilitation, considering the mining industry's track record in this regard.
- **Social Environment Impact:** The project's dust, blasting, noise, and trucking activities will negatively impact the Southern Highlands, disrupting its cultural heritage of agriculture and tourism, which rely on a healthy environment. Moreover, this will jeopardise the health and well-being of many residents in the region.
- **Traffic Congestion:** The increased trucking activities associated with the mining operation will likely lead to severe traffic congestion on local roads. This not only poses safety risks but also disrupts the daily lives of residents and threatens the integrity of the road infrastructure.
- **Air Quality:** Dust emissions from the mining and transportation of materials can lead to deteriorating air quality in the area. Prolonged exposure to particulate matter can have detrimental health effects on both the local population and the environment.
- **Cultural Heritage:** The proposed mining project may encroach upon or disturb culturally significant sites and landmarks in the region. Preserving the cultural heritage of the Southern Highlands should be a paramount concern.

- **Property Values:** The presence of a massive quarry can negatively impact property values in the vicinity. Homeowners and landowners may face financial losses due to decreased property values, making it essential to assess this potential issue.
- **Tourism and Local Economy:** The Southern Highlands relies on tourism and local businesses. The mining project's disruptions and negative environmental impacts could lead to a decline in tourism and affect the livelihoods of local businesses and residents.
- **Wildlife Migration:** The project could obstruct or disrupt wildlife migration routes in the area. This disruption can have cascading effects on the local ecosystem and biodiversity.
- **Geological Stability:** Mining operations of this scale may pose risks related to geological stability, including soil erosion, landslides, and subsidence, which could impact neighbouring properties and the environment.

**In light of these numerous concerns, I urge the Department and the NSW Government to reject this proposal to protect the environmental, social, and economic well-being of the Southern Highlands.**

Please note that I have not made a reportable political donation.



**G. Simon**

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