

Submission opposing Sutton Forest Sand Quarry

I strongly object to the Sutton Forest Quarry.

I through family have been connected to this area for almost 30yrs, my husband helped his parents build the family home at 32 Hanging Rock Road Sutton Forest back in the 1980's. We are currently living here and have a business interest with 2 short term rental properties here with-in the 50 acres. This business relies on fresh air, and a quiet bush environment. It is marketed as an idealic romantic retreat set in lush greenery of a private forest and surrounded by wildlife. It is the perfect city escape. The guests staying here come for the private, quiet location close to the rural joys of the highlands. We also have a well established Protea orchard from which we sell commercially, this supports the local wedding industry. Dust and flowers are not compatible. The flower farm requires clean fresh air and a reliable clean water supply.

This Quarry will completely destroy the environment we've worked hard to maintain & present to guests and at this stage being newly retired we are living off the earnings of 'Hanging Rock' I know there are many other residential properties within a 5km radius of this quarry, who also rely on income from the tourism industry and short term rentals.

This quarry will have a very large impact on us all, our business our residence, our family and our health. This is a home for our extended family. We are very connected with this 50 acres of native environment we so proudly own

'Hanging Rock' backs directly onto the quarry - NO amount of tree planting & noise buffers will mitigate the 24hr noise and dust this quarry will generate.

I consider myself an environmentalist who cares for the land, we are registered with the local Wingecarribbee programme Land for Wildlife. We aim to promote and maintain this area as a safe place for wildlife. We aim to always improve our 50 acre block with tree planting and vegetation to help create a sanctuary for native birds & animals.

This Quarry threatens our health, our home, our families way of life and our retirement income plus the environment for Australian native wildlife.

These Quarry owners clearly do not see the rich environment that supports so many animals, plants, businesses and families. This will destroy it. It is wrong on so many levels.

I am concerned about:

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.. They rate the Risk impacts to community health rated “moderate risk” relating to dust, air, silicosis” pg 197-198 , that’s terrifying. We are worry about the long term effects of chronic exposure to this dust.

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 water table dropping it an unknown amount. Not good enough.

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.

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 Wingecarribbee 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.

Very few people knew about it, we used to enjoy walking down there, taking visitors and showing with pride the ancient heritage of this area.

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 Gateway to the Southern Highlands, Tourism plays an important part of our economy.

With-in 8-10km radius. There are at least 20-30 Air B&B type accommodation, there are Several Wineries and Restaurants and thousands of visitors come to the area for the Church services at the Shine of our lady of Mercy. They do spend money in the area.

If we extend the radius to 14km which captures Exeter & Sutton Forest the number would more than double.

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

Sutton Forest, We do not want to be known for having one of the largest sand quarries in Australia.

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.

Regards

Marguerite Latham