



MIKE BREARLEY & ASSOCIATES
Excellence in Civil Engineering and
Management Consultancy Services

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The Director General
NSW Planning & Environment

Lodged through the Major Projects Submission Portal

Dear Sir/ Madam

Sutton Forest Quarries SSD 6334 Submission

I write in my capacity as a consulting civil engineer located close to the proposed Sutton Forest Quarry project. I have examined the documentation and have serious technical and environmental reservations regarding the project. I believe that the proposed quarry is incompatible with this location and respectfully request that this project be refused. Some of the technical and environmental concerns are described below:

1. Traffic Impacts

I have closely examined Appendix M – The Traffic Impact Assessment. The application does not suitably identify infrastructure required to ameliorate any traffic and safety impacts associated with the development. The proposed arrangements will certainly compromise the safe operation of the Hume Motorway and local roads, particularly at the northern Hanging Rock Road intersection.

The Traffic Impact Statement states that 80% of proposed entry and exit arrangements to the quarry will come from the north, which means that an average of 140 trucks per day will be expected to travel an additional 52 km (approx. 45 minutes additional travel time in a truck) to use the grade separated interchange at South Marulan (26 km south of the site) just to enter the quarry. This is an average of an additional 7,280 road km that must be travelled by trucks each day – a very inefficient use of time and precious fuel resources.

I respectfully suggest that many trucks will seek to avoid travelling the additional 52 km just to enter the site, and will seek shorter routes, which involve the use of the Hanging Rock Rd intersections with the Hume Highway. Many trucks will seek to turn at one of the Hanging Rock Rd intersections and will seek to exit northbound at the other. These intersections are not capable of accommodating the potential vehicle movements associated with the quarry. In particular, the northern Hanging Rock Rd intersection is on a long northbound incline on the Hume Highway with no merging acceleration lanes. The use of this intersection by quarry traffic will severely compromise safe operation of the Hume Highway. The Traffic Impact Statement states that light vehicles will use this intersection to access the quarry. If the quarry were to be approved, construction of a northbound acceleration merging lane on the Hume Highway from Hanging Rock Rd is absolutely essential.

The proposed traffic access arrangements are inadequate and will severely impact both the safe operation of the Hume Highway and Hanging Rock Rd. I have personally witnessed hundreds of vehicles queuing on Hanging Rock Rd to enter the Hume Highway following an event at the Shrine of Our Lady of Mercy. Adding quarry-bound traffic to this already unsafe entry to the Hume Highway from Hanging Rock Rd will severely compromise road user safety.

2. Groundwater Impacts

Like many others, I am very concerned about groundwater impacts. I understand that this mining proposal will excavate below the current water table. I am aware that many land holders, including myself, depend on ground water for their livelihood, and that the quality of this ground water is impacted by natural filtering through the Hawkesbury Sandstone. Surely, the extraction and crushing of sandstone, removal of the sands, and eventual replacement with imported filling material will permanently and irreversibly impact the ground water in this area. Furthermore, this impact may also compromise the Sydney drinking water catchment.

3. Noise and Dust Impacts – Proximity to the Shrine of Our Lady of Mercy and other residents

The noise and dust generated by the quarrying activities will have a long lasting and detrimental impact on the health and wellbeing of neighbours to the quarry. Even though noise bunds are proposed, the continual noise and dust generated by the extraction activities will happen within a short distance of the Shrine of Our Lady of Mercy and other residents. In particular, the Shrine of Our Lady of Mercy has been a place of quiet tranquillity and worship since 1984. It is a centre of great cultural diversity with many shrines constructed very close to the proposed quarry on the northern boundary. On some days the shrine attracts 5,000 visitors, with around 50,000 visitors

per year. The hazards associated with airborne particles associated with sand mining, which will have detrimental health impacts on residents and the thousands of visitors to this area.

Surely, any proposed mining operation is incompatible with the established land uses immediately south of the site.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mike Brearley', with a stylized, flowing script.

Mike Brearley

Director, Mike Brearley & Associates