

14th May 2024

To whom it may concern

As a nearby local resident of the proposed Seaham Quarry Project (SSD-59254474), I object to the proposal. The grounds for my objection are set out below and are based on my knowledge of the local area having been a resident for the past 44 years and third generation agricultural farmers, being an immediate neighbour to the proposed Seaham Quarry Project site.

1. Increased Operation Hours

- Current approved hours of operation are Monday – Friday: 6.00am to 10.00pm and Saturday: 6.00am to 5.00pm.
- Proposed to increase operating hours to 24 hours, 7 days per week.
- This will increase the noise disturbance that already takes place.
- Machinery and plant can be heard very clearly during nighttime hours already.

2. Increased Traffic

- The roads in our area, specifically Italia Road, are already substandard and require potholes to be frequently repaired.
- While quarry trucks aren't meant to turn left onto Italia Road when exiting the existing Boral quarry, this doesn't stop all quarry trucks from doing so.
- Trucks travelling on the smaller local roads, rather than the Pacific Highway are likely to have to cross heritage listed local bridges, i.e.
 - Brig O'Johnson Bridge, Clarence Town (Opened 1880)
 - Dunmore Bridge, Woodville (Opened 1899)
 - Hinton Bridge (Opened 1901)
 - Morpeth Bridge (opened 1898)

These bridges were not constructed to withhold fully laden quarry trucks.

- With the proposed increase in size to the existing Boral Seaham Quarry and the proposed additional two quarries (Stone Ridge & Eagleton), this will only increase the number of quarry trucks on these local roads, and while it isn't only trucks that cause road deterioration, the fully laden trucks significantly increase the damage to the already degenerated roads.
- School buses use these local roads and are unable to safely pull over for school children to get on and off. Italia Road has many 'black' spots and with a speed limit of 90km/h this doesn't allow a fully laden truck to safely pull up in the case of a school bus partially blocking the road.
- The increased truck movements at the intersection of Italia Road and the Pacific Highway will only create an increased safety risk to all road users.

3. Water

- Drainage/surface water run off that has the potential to flow through private rural property on its way to the final water course. This will have impact on run off water that is captured in dams for riparian use and can affect water quality for livestock.
- During wet years or storm events the risk of contamination entering the natural water courses drastically increases.
- An increase of air pollution will result in the quality of tank water decreasing. All residents of East Seaham, Balickera & Eagleton 100% rely on tank water as there is no town water available.

4. Flora and Fauna

- It has been identified that the proposed quarry extension area is home to various threatened flora and fauna species.
- Clearing this land will remove precious habitat that provides shelter and food sources that cannot be replaced in our lifetime.
- The disturbance footprint estimates an additional area of 30.6 ha to be disturbed for extraction area, plus operational areas.

Disturbed area = 30.6 ha = 75.6 acres = 37 football fields = of land cleared by man

5. Devaluation of Property

- As it currently stands property value continues to inflate. This in turn increases our council rates. What do we get in return for the council rates that we currently pay? Roadside rubbish collection! We don't have curb and guttering, we don't have sewage, we don't have town water (we collect all our own water into tanks), our roads are substandard, we have no footpaths or cycleways in East Seaham.
- With this in mind and another hard rock quarry in our local area we are likely to see property values plummet with no compensation to land holders.

6. Conclusion

Boral Seaham Quarry released a newsletter in April 2018. In this newsletter they proudly communicated how they were 'Engaging the Environment' and it is worth noting. Please see extract on the following page or following this link: [1804 SEHM Quarry Info Sheet Operations Overview UPDATE.pdf \(boral.com.au\)](https://www.boral.com.au/1804-SEHM-Quarry-Info-Sheet-Operations-Overview-UPDATE.pdf)

Product on the move

The Boral Seaham Quarry is fortunate to be located close to a major route in the Pacific Highway, allowing products to be readily moved to where they are needed.

Aggregates are transferred from site to customers by **truck-and-dogs**, also called **tipper**s. We have both our own employees and contractors driving these heavy vehicles.

Our business relies upon heavy vehicle transport, so we take road safety very seriously.

Our drivers undergo **site specific orientations** to familiarise them with the characteristics of each location, and they **must** adhere to our **Driver's Code of Conduct**.



Boral Fleet heavy vehicles are also fitted with **electronic monitoring** which records reviewable measures like speed and braking.

We openly encourage observations about any of our vehicles, or those readily associated with the quarry, to be reported to us at any time.

Details such as **registration, fleet numbers, colour, time and place** will help us identify any vehicles driven inappropriately.

To offer your views, you can send an email to feedback@boral.com.au, or call the Seaham Quarry team on 4987 2303.

Engaging the environment

The area around the Boral Seaham Quarry is heavily forested, both with natural bushland and state forestry. While this is ideal for our operations in some aspects, it also means we need to work carefully with our surrounds.

The quarry's unique location offers some advantages not available at other sites.

Our Quarry Manager at Seaham is **Sean Murphy**. Contact Sean on 4987 2303 or sean.murphy2@boral.com.au.

For example, the undulating surrounds and heavy vegetation almost entirely screen the quarry from surrounding viewpoints.

The hilly landscape also assists the minimising of noise from daily operations, which also benefit from on-site mitigation such as the enclosure of the main plants.

The terrain allows water to be easily harvested after rainfall. As with most of our quarries, Seaham uses water it collects for things like dust suppression in both the stockpiling areas and on internal roads.



Apart from local residents, the bushland surrounding the quarry is also home to a variety of flora and fauna, the protection of which we also consider as part of our daily operations.

Within our site, we've set aside a specific area containing **Melaleuca Styphelioides** trees, known to be a favourite of the **squirrel glider**.

This habitat area has been sectioned off, but not with traditional fencing – flag bunting and non-metal pickets are used to avoid exposing the gliders' 'wrist-wings' to injury.

Beyond the quarry, we've also been involved in improving the Seaham environment through our partners, Conservation Volunteers Australia.

With CVA, we've undertaken several planting, revegetation and weed management activities at places like the Seaham Wetlands, adjacent to the Williams River, resulting in a thriving natural area which the whole community can now enjoy.



Feedback or questions? Send us an email – feedback@boral.com.au.
Or call 4987 2303, 4677 2946 (Mon/Tue/Fri) or 0401 894 097 (Wed/Thu)

I am objecting to the proposed expansion of Seaham Quarry as it will create huge ramifications on our lifestyle and future business enterprises.

Yours sincerely