



Hunter Environment Lobby Inc.

202 High St
East Maitland NSW 2323
14th May 2024

The Seaham Quarry Project - Object

Hunter Environment Lobby Inc. (HEL) is a regional community-based environmental organization that has been active for over 30 years on the issues of cumulative impacts of environmental degradation involving species and habitat loss, climate change and effects on ground water and rivers

This Quarry Project is within the Greater Hunter River catchment and as such is a concern to HEL, as is the five other quarry projects either partially commenced or on the planning drawing board. We object to quarry expansion mainly due to their impacts on local Hunter biodiversity.

We find that this Project cannot establish the social license to operate when so many social and environmental issues remain unresolved. The successive number of quarry development proposals pose an unfair burden on the community and Council - with little or no effective public consultation or examination of alternatives.

The Seaham Quarry Project will impact an area of known koala and other threatened species habitat and threaten the efforts of Hunter Water to protect the two threatened microbat species Southern Myotis and Eastern Cave Bat.

Twenty four hour operations will intensify impacts on the Balickera community and the wildlife through airborne pollution, increased frequency of blasting, artificial lighting, vibrations and noise from haulage vehicles.

It is not acceptable for uncertainty to remain about changed groundwater flows and surface water interaction resulting from the Project. Watercourses in the Grahamstown catchment must remain unpolluted. This catchment is one of the major water sources for the Greater Newcastle Water Supply.

Traffic impacts will be felt far and wide and the Italia Road Upgrade proposal will only exacerbate the unsafe traffic conditions at the Bucketts Way and Medowie Road intersections to the Pacific Highway.

Greenhouse gas emissions will not be reduced, when haulage vehicles are directed to take a longer route to reach their market. Those trucks will inevitably endanger the wider public who use the Pacific Highway.

We find that it is not responsible to approve the Seaham Quarry as the risks it poses to the community are too high and unfairly placed not only on today's community, but our future community.

Yours in trust,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jan Davis', is positioned above the typed name.

Jan Davis
President Hunter Environment Lobby Inc.