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SUBMISSION: Boral Seaham Quarry Project SSD-59254474

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The Hunter Community Environment Centre (HCEC) was established in 2004 in recognition of the value of our unique landscape and bioregion. Together with over 2,000 supporters and affiliate organizations, we work with our community to protect biological diversity and special places, and enhance the quality of life in our region.

The Hunter Community Environment Centre wishes to lodge an objection to the proposed expansion of Boral's Seaham Quarry Project due to its impact on native vegetation falling within a NSW Climate Corridor containing climate refugia for 10 threatened species.¹

The Hunter Community Environment Centre called for a moratorium on land clearing within NSW Government mapped Climate Corridors in 2022 as part of the Barrington to Hawkesbury Climate Corridors Alliance.

These areas of climate refugia for multiple species under multiple climate scenarios provide clear priorities for biodiversity conservation and adaptation efforts, and region-wide refugia must be protected from current stresses such as habitat loss and degradation which erodes its capacity to accommodate viable populations.

Proponents of the two neighbouring Stone Ridge and Eagleton quarry projects proposing to clear approximately an additional 100ha of native vegetation combined within 15kms in an area of high conservation value modelled to support the future needs of species adapting to climate warming impacts.

The close proximity of Boral's Seaham quarry to the Stone Ridge and Eagleton quarry project proposals places residents of Italia Road at risk of excessive cumulative impacts from increased heavy haulage traffic, noise, dust and vibration from blasting and extraction as well as dust and air pollution.

The environment centre has joined a coalition of local community and environment groups calling for the NSW Government, including the Department of Planning, NSW EPA in concert with Local Councils, MP's and in consultation with community members to:

- Develop a Lower Hunter Quarry Cumulative Impacts Mitigation Action Plan to introduce standardised, scalable cumulative impact assessment and monitoring of social and

¹ [BARRINGTON TO HAWKESBURY CLIMATE CORRIDORS: Connecting regional climate change refugia for native species' persistence in a warming world'](#), Paul Winn. page 15

environmental impacts including traffic, dust, noise, water discharges and vegetation loss with a view to reducing impacts on the community and environment.

- Commission independent expert research to quantify contemporary data on supply and demand for quarry products to guide ecologically sustainable, efficient and cost-effective provision of materials, and assess alternative sources of recycled housing and infrastructure materials, including gravel and aggregates from recycled coal-ash waste.

Please see attachments:

[HCEC SUBMISSION: Stone Ridge Quarry Project, SSD-10432](#), February 2023

[Lower Hunter Hard Rock Quarry Strategic and Conservation Plan: Proposal and Issue Paper](#), Feb 2024