



KOALA KOALITION
ECONETWORK PORT STEPHENS INC.
koalakoalition@econetworkps.org

29/6/25

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Objection to Hillview Hard Rock Quarry SSD-70557215

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on this development proposal. Koala Koalition EcoNetwork Port Stephens (KKEPS) advocates for better protection of koalas in Port Stephens and neighbouring LGAs. It operates as a Special Interest Group within EcoNetwork Port Stephens.

KKEPS' objects to the approval of Hillview quarry because the proposal needs revision to further avoid and mitigate impacts to:

1. the endangered and vulnerable native flora and fauna on and surrounding the site, and
2. the danger presented by heavy quarry vehicles on Bucketts Way, and particularly at the intersection with the Pacific Highway.

Ten SSD quarries are in proximity (there are 3 [not just 2] at Karuah), as shown on the map below. The current adhoc approvals make the roads more dangerous for us all. KKEPS believes that strategic planning around hard rock quarries could have resulted in better outcomes for residents, flora and fauna [Request and summary of issues – Lower Hunter Hard Rock Quarry Strategic and Conservation Planning – EcoNetwork Port Stephens](#).

The community fears the massive increase in heavy haulage risks, because the necessary state infrastructure is lacking. Conversations with TfNSW have confirmed our concerns that planning is not well-advanced, and no funding has been identified, to create safer intersections with the Pacific Highway and the Bucketts Way or Italia Road.

Italia Rd quarries combined will add 1000 truck movements per day to the road network. A 'bandaid' solution of creating left merge lanes and banning right turns onto the highway, forcing Italia Rd quarry trucks to only turn left (and use the Karuah overpass to turn south) is all that has been offered. This 'left turn only' solution must also be applied to quarry traffic joining the Pacific Highway from Bucketts Way.

There has been little attention given to fauna fencing, and none to creating road underpasses, to prevent an increase of road kill events on local fauna.

There is an overall lack of appropriate assessment of the cumulative and combined impacts of having 10 hard rock quarries within close proximity, all with linked haulage routes, as shown in the map following. There is no information or assessment of climate polluting emissions emitted by the heavy haulage fleet, that should be required as part of the planning and approval process.

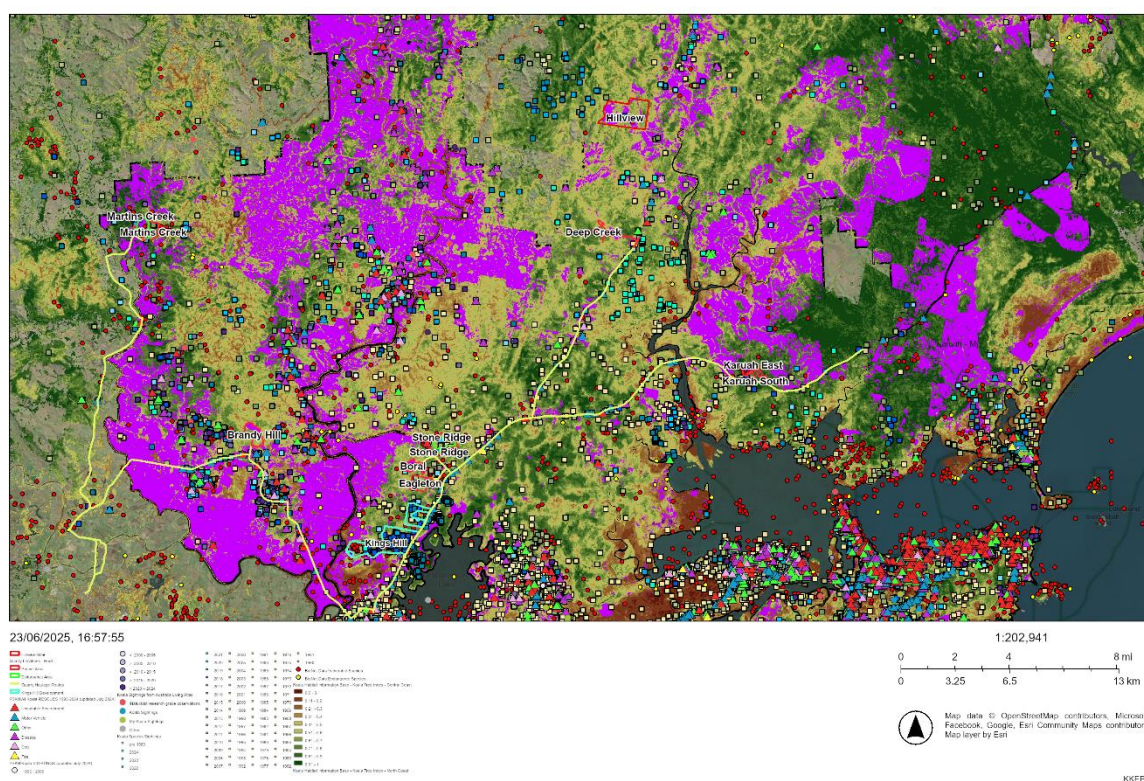
Infrastructure Australia's Infrastructure Market Capacity 2022 Report states that based on current technology and standards, around 27% of conventional materials (ie: materials that do not originate

from or contain recycled constituents) used for road projects could be replaced with a range of recycled materials. This would equate to approximately 52 million tonnes of recycled materials. The possibility of using recycled materials is not addressed by Planning assessments. The consistent plea for more quarry approvals indicates a limitless need for products that may not be valid.

It is not only the quarries, but the urgency of addressing housing shortages, that will combine to increase traffic impacts on our roads beyond the assumed 10%pa. Significant housing developments are planned for Karuah, Medowie and Kings Hill; all intersecting with the Pacific Highway. The inevitable road accidents causing injuries and fatalities, will have an impact on the emergency, rescue and medical facilities within our community, that are already struggling to cope.

Plans and funding for state infrastructure is not keeping up with demand. Nurses and paramedics are leaving NSW to work in other states where pay and conditions are better. Continuing to make approvals that add to the massive workload, already not being met in a timely manner by Hunter hospitals, is not appropriate.

Koala Data



The mapping shows that the Hillview quarry is in an Area of Recognised Koala Significance (ARKS). Hillview is also in an area mapped as Climate Corridor. It is usual that there are less sightings and rescues where wildlife is away from urban areas and much less likely to come into harm's way, such as the Hillview site.

More needs to be required by all the quarries to reduce their impact on the surrounding communities and local biodiversity, including better planning for climate change mitigation efforts. Small rural communities are bearing inequitable impacts on their health and well-being caused by these developments.

The consent conditions for this quarry, if approved, need to be detailed and rigorous.

Yours faithfully,

Carmel Northwood, Convenor