



Australia Walkabout Wildlife Park

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Mr Howard Reed

Reference number: DA 94-402004 Mod 1 – objection

Although Walkabout Park does not object, in principle, to Rocla's need to move their Administration Centre, we do object to their being allowed to do so on the basis of what they have presented in their EA which is grossly inadequate. We believe considerable more work should be done before it is understood what impacts this might have on neighbouring properties. The information presented in the EA is insufficient to do this.

It is important to note that the EA suggests that Walkabout Park is situated only south of Darkinjung Road, whereas Walkabout Park extends all the way along Peats Ridge Road (ALL of property 'S' in Figure 3.1).

It is also important to understand the business of Walkabout Park. Walkabout Park is a natural bush sanctuary. We are part of national State-sponsored breeding programs (including the Tasmanian devil and the bilby), we educate visitors on conservation of the Australian environment and Australian (including Aboriginal) cultural heritage, and we run both day and overnight programs.

Walkabout Park's daytime and overnight visitors may be impacted.

The NSW State Government has just invested \$100,000 (announced today) in Walkabout Park for the specific purpose of erecting cottages for overnight stays to attract more tourists to the Central Coast and to give them a real experience of the Australian bush. These tourists, visiting a wildlife park, should be able to sleep peacefully until a reasonable 'I'm on holiday' time in the morning, and to enjoy the quiet ambience of the bush when they are awake.

Walkabout Park is concerned that the situation of the wash plant with the administration centre in a deep hole (we think this is what they are proposing but they haven't actually shown where it will be positioned) will result in extremely noisy truck traffic as they travel up and down the steep slope.

The EA does not cover the potential effects of resiting the wash plant.

The EA does not cover the potential effects of truck and internal haulage vehicle traffic to and from the wash plant.

Walkabout Park agrees the wash plant should be relocated as it is currently extremely noisy at times, but the EA does not discuss the pros and cons of various new location options.

The EA does not cover the potential effects of the new roads that will carry trucks and internal haulage vehicles. Although there are a lot of 'words' in the section on roads, they do not cover the things that really matter. Walkabout Park is particularly concerned about the noise and the visual impacts.

Walkabout Park is worried that the new sewage disposal will contaminate the local water supply. We are especially concerned because the sewage will be dealt with in the bottom of an old quarry crater where flood waters can collect and cause the system to overflow, and even under normal conditions, sewage might contaminate the ground water, the creeks and, most devastating of all because it will impact everyone not just those of us downstream from the quarry, is the risk of the already damaged aquifer being contaminated.

Walkabout Park would like to see Council approval for an adequate sewage disposal system *before* this application to move the Administration Centre is allowed to go ahead. This is especially important as Rocla has a track record of not complying with conditions of consent that require certain actions after consent but before they commence operations (refer to the issue currently under investigation with NOW re their operating without sufficient water licenses). In addition, once Council approval is obtained, if permission for Rocla to proceed is given, this should include a requirement that, if water supply to surrounding properties is affected, compensation will be made to residents and businesses.

Walkabout Park has commenced a regular program for testing water quality as well as water supply.

Walkabout Park is concerned re the impact of demolition and construction noise. Although Rocla says they will warn residents before this occurs, the impact on our business (even if we know it is going to happen) is incalculable. Visitors experiencing the noise will go away and tell others that Walkabout Park is not a peaceful place to visit, causing loss of future business growth. Rocla should be required to agree to adequately compensate Walkabout Park if visitors are affected by the noise of demolition or construction.

Similarly, if the traffic noise especially the noise of trucks struggling up the steep incline in low gear, affects Walkabout Park visitors, Rocla should be required to adequately compensate Walkabout Park.

Walkabout Park is also concerned that the new road system will be visible to visitors to Walkabout Park and will impair their experience. Walkabout Park requests that this be properly assessed as the topography of the land is such that even the existing wash plant at a 2km distance is visible from Walkabout Park. If the road system as proposed will be visible from Walkabout Park, Rocla should be required to redesign it so that it isn't.

Gerald Barnard
Managing Director
Australia Walkabout Wildlife Park