

19 April 2013

NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure
Attn: Sophie Butcher Cc: Paul Freeman; Colin Phillips

Dear Ms Butcher

Proposed Karuah East Hard Rock Quarry: MP 09-0175

I am writing to object to the quarry development proposed at Karuah East by Hunter Quarries Pty Ltd.

As a frequent visitor to the area, I believe that the project analyses submitted by Hunter Quarries in support of this development have not adequately addressed the social, economic and particularly, environmental factors. The major issues are:

- The proposed quarry is to be located in a largely undisturbed and unique environmental area which, according to expert reports, would significantly impact threatened flora and fauna. This impact is unacceptable given the fragility of the area into which the proposed quarry will intrude. The area will be further fragmented, devaluing it as fauna and flora habitat.
- The loss of Mt Karuah to quarrying would represent a change in the nature of the area, greatly increasing the visual impact of the existing quarry for both residents and visitors.
- The quarry operations would generate serious levels of noise and dust which would have a significant and unacceptable impact on plants and animals including endangered species.
- The sense of place and community of the neighbouring residents of Hunterview and Halloran roads has already been compromised by the existing quarry operation and this would be exacerbated by the adverse impact of the proposed mining operation in respect of noise, dust and visual pollution.
- Residents who chose the area for its peaceful and pristine rural environment will see a significant and unacceptable devaluation of their properties if the proposed project proceeds. It is unlikely that these residents would have purchased in the area had they been aware of the Hunter Quarries' plan and its modus operandi.
- Since it would appear that the existing quarry has ample reserves or could negotiate access to meet future output requirements the logic to develop Karuah East is questionable.
- I understand that Hunter Quarries has failed to meet a number of environmental approval conditions relating to the existing quarry. As such, I am concerned that Hunter Quarries cannot be relied upon to discharge its obligations to the environment as required if consent is granted. From investigations it would appear that their proposal for the new quarry has much to do with their inability to effectively communicate with the owner of the mined property and does not represent a sensible business outcome.

I trust you to fully consider my concerns about the proposed development. I wish to claim submitter's rights to supply further information.

Yours sincerely,

Anna Wright
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Sydney NSW 2016