

SUBMISSION – GUNLAKE QUARRY EXPANSION

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Summary of our rejection of the expansion

1. Gunlake quarry is proposing to increase its production by 50% and be operational 24 hours a day.
2. Our main concern is the disruption to local residents, such as ourselves, in regard to further impacting the enjoyment of our rural lifestyle – now proposed to be 24 hours a day. This further disruption will be on a number of visual and noise pollution levels, including increased quarry noise, dust and light emissions.
3. Truck transport is also a major concern as it will have a severe impact on local roads, affecting traffic noise, dust and road safety. Brayton Road is already very difficult to navigate safely due to the number and speed of trucks, plus the deterioration of the road surface and increased road kill.
4. Gunlake say they will be able to continue at this increased rate of production for “in excess of 100 years”. That being the case, this is a long-term issue that needs to be given due diligence from a community as well as a commercial point of view.
5. This expansion is also placed alongside the Holcim Lynwood Quarry, which adds further to our concerns. However, issues raised are already being worked through with Lynwood.
6. Based on our work with Lynwood we now understand that much of the noise already heard from Gunlake may be due to non use of acoustic hoods on their crusher and no bunding. This will obviously increase with expansion.
7. We propose that the Gunlake expansion be rejected.

Issues

24 hours a day operations = more noise, dust and now lighting issues

8. Gunlake’s Modification Application seeks to extend the quarry operations from “7am to 6pm Monday to Saturday to 6am on Monday” to “continuously from 6am Monday to 6pm Saturday”, in other words to operate 24 hours per day 6 days per week. It is proposed the quarry will operate 52 weeks per year, save for public holidays.
9. We can already hear Gunlake Quarry operating from where we live. We can only imagine the sound from quarrying operations will be louder and will travel even further at night.

10. We expect that dust and lighting from the expanded operations will also have a major impact on our, and the local community's, rural lifestyle.

However....

11. We have recently been involved with new Holcim Lynwood Quarry and are very impressed with how they are going about creating their quarry. They are adhering to the various environmental, building and operational rules, regulations and standards AND they are doing so in consultation with the local community groups and individuals. We can only assume that if Gunlake Quarry is given permission to expand, they will adhere to today's current higher standards as Holcim's standards were set several years ago.
12. We also assume that if the Gunlake expansion goes ahead, any new environmental, building and operational standards will be applied to the quarry as a whole, not just the expansion.

More trucks on the local road = further road degradation

13. Gunlake's Modification Application proposes "Increased truck movements to an average of 82 laden trucks per day." This will require 164 total truck movements per days when unloaded trucks on the return journey are included. These average truck movements will result in;
 - **Nearly 500** loaded truck movements per week (based on proposed 24 hours per 6 day per week operations)
 - **Close to 1,000** total truck movements per week
 - **In excess of 25,000** loaded truck movements per annum
 - **Well over 500,000** total truck movements per annum
14. Brayton Road is already suffering considerable degradation due to the existing level of truck movements from Gunlake Quarry. This is evident by the naked eye and by the amount of road kill.
15. With the above numbers, it is surprising that Gunlake "do not anticipate any road infrastructure will require installation or modification to enable the increased truck movements" or "Upgrades to the roads and intersections are not required." We certainly believe this needs community-approved attention even if permission is not given for the expansion.
16. We suggest an independent assessment of the impact Gunlake currently have on all roads and the increased impacts they will have if this Modification Application is granted, would be fair and reasonable.

However...

17. It is noted that the nearby Holcim Lynwood Quarry is connected to the Melbourne – Sydney rail link by way of a spur line and is required to ship the bulk of its product by rail. Perhaps this is something Gunlake can consider.

Where to from here?

We would very much like to know what happens from here? What happens with this submission? How will we know how things are progressing? Will there be meeting with Council, Gunlake and the community? If so, how and when will this be organised...?

Our Towrang community has two representative groups, the *Towrang Community Progress Group* and the *Cookbundoon Heritage Preservation Group*. These groups should be involved in the process as a matter of course prior to approval. As should all residents, including ourselves, to be independently informed by State government, Council and Gunlake of all progress so that due process is offered to all.

We look forward to your response.

Oxana Paschuk-Johnson & Paul T. Johnson