

For The Attention of:
The Director, Planning Services
Dept of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39 SYDNEY 2001
Email to: information@planning.nsw.gov.au
Date: 20160912 (12th Sept 2016)

RE: Objection to proposed Calga Sand Quarry Extension – Modification 3

To the Director,

I will keep this statement of objection short as I do not have the technical capacity to address individual items in the documentation.

1. At the very least, an addition of time should be granted to the community of the Central Coast to make submissions, given that the documentation supporting the application for Modification 3 was not available on the advertized date at the advertized place (Dept. of Planning in Gosford). Given the short time frame for responses, this failure of process has prevented concerned citizens from exercising their rights in the planning process
2. It is 12 years since an EIS has been undertaken at the site, as part of an approved application, and that 2004 EIS had no data on the impacts of a crushing plant at the site. The Environmental Assessment lodged with the Mod 3 application notes that at one residence existing noise limits would be exceeded (p. 39) and that there would have to be modification of EPL 11295. The measurement of industrial noise is contentious, and the fact that the EA notes a breach in the existing environmental licence limits should be grounds alone for the requirement of a full EIS. Additionally, the EA's modelling shows no methodological basis for demonstrating that the noise model assumptions used are consistent with the actual noise that the proposed crushing plant would make.
3. The Air quality report is a repeat of a study undertaken in 2009 for the Southern Extension. It does not model the impact on air quality of a crushing plant at the site. Changes to legislation related to dust have occurred since 2009 (NEPM, Clean Air Regulations 2010, and the National Clean Air Agreement in 2015). The community is rightly concerned about levels of PM2.5 dust and the impact a crushing plant would have on air quality.
4. I have concerns that the installation of a crushing plant at Calga will allow that site to become a central processing plant. This might allow smaller quarries to be opened, as they could truck their rock to Calga to crush. As the quarry is ending the end of its conventional working life, creating a new role for it is a likely future plan for the new owners. Since the owners did not raise the prospect of the crushing plant at the July CCC, it is reasonable to assume they are also not declaring all their intentions now.
5. In the event that the crushing plant is approved, I request that the Conditions of Consent prohibit bringing materials on to the site, and reinstate consequences for the exceedance of noise and dust criteria, effectively removed by the 2012 Modification.

Yours sincerely

Kate da Costa

ADDRESS NOT FOR PUBLICATION

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