

MANGROVE MOUNTAIN DISTRICTS COMMUNITY GROUP INC.

CALGA, CENTRAL MANGROVE, MANGROVE MOUNTAIN
KULNURA, MOUNT WHITE, PEATS RIDGE, SOMERSBY

PRESIDENT: D. Willmott

HON. SECRETARY: M Pontifer

Rob Stokes MP.

Minister for Planning

Dear Sir.

8/9/16

120 Ironbark Rd.

Mangrove Mtn.

2250

We have serious concerns about this matter being permitted. It will devastate the surrounding community and the whole south portion of the Mountain plateau. See enclosed press release.

1. This area is an ancient uplifted porous sandstone plateau with a proven VERY limited aquifer which is being irreparably depleted by the cutting away of the sandstone hills.

2. The mine is in a dense populated village.

3. Noise from the quarry and depletion of the limited water over many years is a well documented and recorded fact!!

4. The quarry recently moved the washplant at great expense and renewed it!! No crusher has been part of the operation for 20+ years and no need in the refurbishment!!

5. We have representation on the government appointed community committee for this quarry so aware of the ongoing facts and data.

6. It was openly stated last year that the quarry ~~is~~ site has very little sandstone left to access (maybe 3 years) if current low sales continue.

7. We believe that the crusher will crush rock from hundreds of small private mines which will cover our region. Thus digging ~~the~~ hundreds of holes into our already damaged/depleted aquifer as the costly equipment is set up by the big co.-o porate!! To approve this is just foolish and the final destruction for our region.

There is plenty of reclamation sand sources which can clear waterways and NOT devastate our aquifer!!

Margaret Pontifer OAM.
Hon Sec.

Quarry change bid

Proposal to install crushing system on the old sand mine site

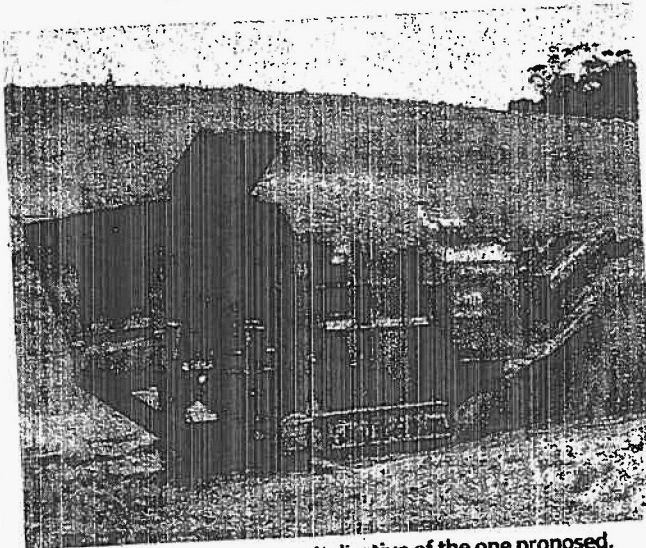
Richard Noone

AFTER a landmark court victory slammed the door on the expansion of the controversial Calga Sand Quarry last November, a new battle has emerged.

New owner Hanson Construction Materials, which bought the site from Rocla in January, has lodged a proposal to install a crushing system to reduce the amount of "oversized raw material" and extend the life of the ailing quarry.

Residents who fought the quarry's expansion all the way to the NSW Land & Environment Court last year fear the crusher will be a Trojan horse, which they say will allow the company to turn the site into a processing plant with material brought in from off site.

Hanson has approval to operate the site until 2030 but in its Environmental Assessment (EA) for the crushing system it concedes — based on projected annual yields of up to 400,000 tonnes — the quarry has a "life of approximately four to five years".



A mobile jaw crushing system indicative of the one proposed.

"The installation and operation of a crushing system is necessary to maximise the recovery of extractable friable sandstone from the remainder of stage 3 of the quarry," the EA reads.

"Given the judgment of the L & E Court, Hanson now wishes ... to install and operate a crushing system as part of its processing operations.

"The introduction of a crushing system would improve the yield of quarry

products from the raw feed by up to 20 per cent and as such reduce bulldozer ripping time at the quarry as well as extending the quarry life."

Australia Walkabout Wildlife Park general manager Tassin Barnard said Hanson should have to disclose the crusher's true purpose and commit to only using it to process material from the site.

"They have not needed a

crusher for 20 years and they have just about exhausted the supply of sand," she said.

"We think they're trying to turn the site into a central processing plant and bring material in from other quarries, why else would they invest millions of dollars in an extinct site?"

She said the company had the rights to the quarry to 2030 "but now they've nearly run out of material and they have to find a way to make it financially viable".

Ms Barnard said surrounding landowners feared the crusher would impact noise levels, dust and traffic from trucks if material was allowed to be brought in.

According to the EA the diesel crusher is listed at a cost of \$650,000.

Residents have until September 12 to make a submission on the proposal to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment.

Hanson was contacted for a response but failed to provide one by the time of press.

To make a submission search: majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au.