

Submission Document

Attention: Director - Coal and Quarry Assessments
Planning and Assessment
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
GPO Box 39, Sydney NSW 2001

Re: Public Submission for SSD – 7293, Sancrox Quarry Expansion Project.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to submit my objection to the above development application.

My Name: MARIN JOHNSTON

My Address: 1 Narrow Cut Rd Randan Island NSW 2446

My objection to the proposal is on the grounds listed in ticked boxes below:

The Port Macquarie region is expanding rapidly. This development is in the Sancrox area, approximately 6km west of Port Macquarie, which is undergoing significant residential development that will be directly affected by the increased environmental impact of this quarry expansion.

The Sancrox area has already had a substantial increase in noise (24/7), due to the upgrading of the highway to a motorway. You only have to ask anyone living in the area that, despite noise mitigation measures, the rural ambience is already reduced and any extra noise generation, especially at night, will only make it worse.

The proposed 'quarry expansion' is more than that! It also includes two new additional operations, concrete batching and asphalt production. There are already other concrete and asphalt plants in the region that have the capacity to service the demand.

The noise impact of a 24 hour, 7 days a week operation is particularly concerning. There will be no respite from constant noisy plant and equipment. Daytime operation excluding Sundays is the maximum that should be allowed in a community precinct. The processes carried out do not have to run at night and can be easily shutdown/restarted.

The project includes "clearing 43.1 hectares of native forest vegetation, 0.55 ha of which is identified as the threatened ecological community Subtropical coastal floodplain forest (NR117)" with serious and irreversible environmental impact. (Ref: DA, Annex C)

The Greater Sancrox Area Structure Plan (Port Macquarie Hastings Shire Council, 2014), identifies the land to be cleared as medium to high activity koala habitat. The clearing also destroys an identified "critical link and vegetation connectivity in the immediate, and the Greater Sancrox Structure Plan, eliminating traverses by animals south-north through the centre of the Development Site". (Ref: DA, Annex C)

The Biodiversity Assessment Report (DA, Annex C) was based on insufficient field work conducted in 2015, four years ago. Current, independent and comprehensive field surveys are required to validate the report.

The State of Emergency declared in NSW due to the catastrophic bushfires in November 2019 killed an estimated 350 koalas. Injured and now homeless koalas may have moved onto the proposed development site.

The environmental impact is serious and irreversible. The proposed development site supports unique biodiversity with a total of 27 threatened species identified so far, including 17 birds and 9 mammals, including 7 vulnerable microchiropteran bats identified. The native vegetation should be retained to combat Australia's current extinction crisis with some 964 of the 1,250 Australian terrestrial animal species currently listed as 'Threatened'. (Ref. <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/native-vegetation/why-is-native-vegetation-important>)

Proposed "Ecosystem credits" system of payment by the developer to offset destruction of threatened species does not compensate for the serious and irreversible impact on the natural environment.

Native vegetation in NSW stores a significant amount of carbon. This deforestation and forest degradation will contribute to global greenhouse gas emissions and fewer trees in a region can contribute to drought by reducing the amount of local rainfall.

The natural water on the site, currently supporting native flora and fauna, will be diverted to industrial use and North and west alluvial flood plains of the Hastings River and Haydons Creek will be impacted.

The company operating this site has a poor track record of environmental compliance and were fined \$15,000 by the Environmental Protection Authority in 2016 for breaches to water their water management operational obligations. (Ref: EPA 24.03.2016).

The proposed works impact Aboriginal heritage sites, including a Scar Tree and ceremonial site of "high cultural significance." (Ref: Annex D, Heritage Report)

Increased quarry trucks movement 24 hours a day 7 days will effect local road safety.

I have made no reportable political donations in the last two years.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

25/11/19

I AGREE to the Department publishing my submission on its website in accordance with The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment Privacy Policy.

I DO NOT agree to the Department publishing my submission on its website in accordance with The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment Privacy Policy

Further comments below and/or attached.