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PCU078718

15 November 2019

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001



Dear Minister,

Re: Hanson Heidelberg Application #SSD 9946 for a New Quarry at Sancrox NSW

I write to you today to express my concerns regarding the above application after having studied the Hanson Environmental Impact Statement (ESI) which is currently on exhibition until 26th November 2019. I am the owner of lot 34 Le Clos Sancrox and this land is very close to the proposed new Sancrox quarry.

I am aware that the objective of those who make applications to the authority is to have them approved, however, this should not be at the expense of the truth or the community.

I am concerned with issues in the Hanson EIS and have categorized them as follows:

Myths being Perpetrated.

In order to encourage the approval of this new quarry the ESI suggests that there are no other supplies of rock in the area or a quarry within 200km, when there are ample reserves closer, at Bago only 20km from Sancrox and there are several Hanson competitors with local operating quarries.

Inconvenient Truths.

A core koala habitat at "high use" level exists in the centre of the proposed new quarry. Also, a very large portion of the proposed new pit is a "medium use" koala habitat. The recent bush fire has highlighted the threat to the diminishing koala habitat and should not be ignored.

The quarry is not ideally situated. In every direction over the range of 300m-1300m, there is residential development.

Omissions from the EIS

No mention is made of the 142 Lot rural residential sub-division which is currently under construction. This is only 600m from the proposed new quarry.

Hanson has not made appropriate recognition of the biological community corridor nor identified how to manage its removal and create alternatives.

Unwanted Impacts

There may be a higher concentration of dust particles in the air within the region for the next 20-30 years. This may impact respiratory health as well as settle on tank drinking water, solar panels as well as homes and infrastructure causing diminished efficiency and increased maintenance costs.

Considerations not given enough attention

Port Macquarie is the fastest growing area in NSW and all future development is to the west, it has less residential Lots than it has quarry rock.

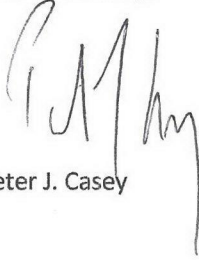
All development of the growth corridor west of Port Macquarie towards Wauchope is important at both a local and state level. It is important that the approval process at every level of government be applied rigorously to ensure the correct balance.

My land is part of an estate with some 51 pots of approximately 2 Ha each. All lot owners have combined to make an application to the Port Macquarie Hastings Council, at their request, to rezone the land from rural to residential. The standards applied at the local level have been rigorous indeed. This is appropriate and our expectation is that an even more rigorous process be applied in consideration of a State Significant Development application for a quarry in an area where there is an existing and rapidly growing residential community as well as a sensitive ecological zone.

I request that is that you, as a member of the Ministerial Collegiate within the NSW Government make enquiries and take initiatives to ensure that the approval process standards being applied at every level of government are rigorous, fair and balanced and in particular that you look into the matter of Application SSD 9946 to validate that it meets these criteria.

I look forward to your response to my letter.

Yours Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter J. Casey', with a stylized, cursive script.

Peter J. Casey