

28<sup>th</sup> November 2013

**Honourable Mr. Brad Hazzard**  
**The Minister for NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure**  
**23-33 Bridge Street, Sydney NSW 2000**  
**GPO Box 39, Sydney NSW 2001**

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**Attn: Ray Lawlor / Sara Roach / Chris Ritchie**

*[Ray.Lawlor@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Ray.Lawlor@planning.nsw.gov.au)*

***Re: Submission re Modification to Mixed Use Subdivision (Concept Plan and Project Approval) - MOD 6 Casuarina Town Centre Development Eclipse Lane Casuarina NSW - 06-0258***

Dear Minister,

I write to you about the above request for further amendment by the developer for modification to the Casuarina Town Centre – Mod 06. I request that before any determination is made by your officer Mr. Ray Lawlor that the following matters detailed in this letter are dealt with.

This is now my eight (8<sup>th</sup>) written communication to you about this development and probably more than 30 complaints about dust, noise, vibration, radiation and other matters to your Department officials. NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure are the approving authority for this development.

**Photo: Dust blanketing our suburb regularly**



We have been blanketed by this development's toxic dust for almost 9 months. Our community has had community rallies, social media protests, media articles, Channel 9 news stories about his development and the distinct lack of proper monitoring by the Tweed Council. We have been repeatedly lied to by those connected to this development. Before you approve any further work or modification for this development we implore you to not allow this development to risk our short and long term health and continue the ongoing damage to our properties. We have had our local member Mr. Geoff Provest MP Tweed intervene on our behalf numerous times. We have had Workcover NSW issue numerous infringement notices for safety breaches where they have endangered the public and residents.

We understand through advice by local Casuarina resident whose family has worked on these mines for three generations that this Casuarina Town Centre site has been the location of sand mining on 5 or more occasions between the 1920's - 1970's and on particular the ACTUAL site of the mine processing plant and tailings/waste area. Sand mines have the dangerous silica (quartz) which is toxic to human health. Tailings areas are generally recognised as the most toxic locations of any mine.

We would like clarification as to whether this site has ever been listed as a toxic or contaminated site and if not, why wouldn't a mine processing plant and toxic tailings area be listed as a contaminated site and therefore not suitable for habitation or the location of a town centre?

Cardno advise that radiation readings in 3 locations on this site exceeded acceptable levels on a site a couple of hundred metres across even though mining finished some 50 or so years ago and they advise that it is not remediated fully yet!!

Given the detected unacceptable radiation levels and the historical use of this site, we would like clarification if the accredited site environmental auditor was aware of this and did he adjust his methodology accordingly to account for this greater need for evaluation. We would like clarification and independent review as to whether his investigation was appropriate given this elevated risk. We would specifically like to know if any penetration (drilling) analysis was sufficiently close enough to detect other additional isolated radiation spots or other deposits of toxic material and was the number of sites collected commensurate with the heightened level or risk given the historical use of this site.

Due to the toxic nature of tailings areas of mines did the environmental assessment of the site include mineralogy analysis for concentrated heavy metals or quartz deposits and other toxic material likely to be located around mine processing plants and tailings that if disturbed during earthworks could cause various central nervous developmental delays if young children were playing in it in their backyard – i.e. Mt Isa / port Pirie?

We would also like to know if your Department would be satisfied if Tweed Council have not required or conducted any environmental monitoring for quartz/silica or any other toxic dust for this project given the history of this site and the video provided previously to your Department showing our suburb regularly blanketed for 4 months with this sites dust? Millions of people each year die from silica and there is considerable data linking known

health risks with sand mining and silica exposure. We are currently awaiting scientific analysis from government laboratories for the dust that has been blown into our homes for the past 9 months.

Given the photos you have been provided previously on numerous occasions does your department consider Tweed Council enforced adequate dust controls on this site and what additional controls will you require to better manage and monitor this toxic dust? Given that the current unremediated site will need to be remediated can you guarantee that this time no dust from this radioactive area will blanket our suburb again due to lack of adequate dust suppression and no environmental monitoring?

We would like your department require INDEPENDANT radiation monitoring for households in Casuarina that have been affected by this site's dust and toxic dust analysis?

We would like any further earthworks on this site be independently monitored for this site more closely and enforced and more stringent conditions /controls on this development?

If cancer clusters or death due to silicosis develop on this town centre would your department still be satisfied with the diligence your department has demonstrated to date?

We are also aware that this development has requested that our dunes be cleared of current vegetation. This is well established vegetation and there has been considerable dune erosion over the past 5 years so we are very concerned about any established vegetation removal accelerating further dune erosion.

We are particularly concerned about the south footpath being directed over the footbridge in the park behind our properties. The reason our blocks are shorter than others and there is a park there is that this is a flood prone area so we believe it would be foolish to direct the footpath over our footbridge and it will increase security risks by bringing pedestrians into the small park at the rear of our property. There should be a direct link to the beach from the carpark and not have to loop it backwards and south over the footbridge in the park behind our properties.

I can be contacted on 0439 885 383. Thank you for intervening on this development. We have genuine fears for our long term health about this development. Please act so that in 5-30 years we don't find out that due to the lack of action now we all suffer horribly then.

Regards



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