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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 16 December 2015 10:13 AM
To: Swati Sharma
Cc: cr.epov@gtcc.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Modification to Possum Brush Quarry.

Department of Planning NSW

Hi Swati,

Thank you for providing the opportunity to lodge our objection regarding the proposed modification to the Possum Brush Quarry which has now closed.

[REDACTED]

The neighbours of the quarry were not informed of the modification application by Pacific Blue Metal and given an opportunity to object by Council or the Dept. of Planning. Is this within lawful requirements?

I do not read the local Newspaper and have not visited the Council Chambers for several months.

My objection to this application is based on excessive noise regarding the operations within the quarry, trucks accessing the quarry, air pollution (neighbours rely on tank water) and the environmental damage caused by the ever expanding operations within the quarry. We are not satisfied with the current operations and the proposal to more than double the quarry extraction limit for a period of 30 years raises our concerns two fold.

Currently trucks travelling to and from the Quarry traverse a very steep and long climb of around 2 klm. Noise monitoring (set out in the last two Environmental Management Reports) has not detected above acceptable levels of noise omitted by truck or quarry equipment. Many of the trucks manage to make the journey without creating excessive noise, however, regularly there are trucks entering and leaving the quarry that would more than likely breach the noise level requirement due to excessive use of air brakes, poor truck maintenance and the manner the trucks are operated. The noise monitoring (organised by PBM) according to the last EMR takes place a couple of times a year for a couple of hours which has not detected these trucks and given the limited monitoring I am not surprised.

Many complaints have been made regarding this noise in the past but given the lack of action and failure to control the noise over recent years, many have lost faith in the complaint system and no longer complain. Many regard it as a waste of time.

The extraction limit changes was raised with Charlie Kennett of PBM at a Council/Quarry/Community Consultative meeting on 13/12/2015. He explained that the Dept of Planning were intending to withdraw the average extraction rate of 200,000 tonne to a fixed annual rate of 500,000 tonne for a period of 30 years. He was of the opinion that extraction rates would probably increase slightly over coming years. Despite his prediction the community concern is that we do not know what the future 30years will bring in terms of extraction rates. However, we do know PBM would be entitled to increase their production over double the current limits, doubling some of the current community concerns I have raised.

My question is why should this modification be accepted when the last two years of production has been trending down, and the spikes in production in past years has related to the Pacific Highway upgrades which have now moved further north and the future production will rely on local requirements? Charlie Kennett informed the meeting that he was currently sending quarry products as far north as Coffs Harbour as local quarries in that area were at maximum capacity supplying Pacific Highway upgrades. Obviously when these upgrades are completed PBM will rely on more local demand and the modification will not be required as production should fall well below the current extraction averages.

Given the current economic situation, the budget problems with Local Councils, repairing local roads is not likely to increase demand for quarry products.

On that basis we are asking that the modification application not be accepted.

I accept that PBM provide great benefit to our community, we only ask for fairness in how the resource is controlled.

I have managed to contact some of the local residents and provided your email address for comment, but given the coming holiday period some may not get the message in time.

Looking forward to your comments.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

cc. Peter as discussed.