

13th February 2016

NSW Department of Planning SUBMISSION

Objection: Major Project SD 13_6125-Cabbage Tree Road Sand Quarry, 398 Cabbage Tree Road, Williamtown.

I am submitting this document on behalf of my wife and myself. We are long-term residents of Port Stephens and live close to Williamtown and frequently use Cabbage Tree Road. We wish to object to the proposal.

The operations of this quarry will impact heavily on the lives of the local residents and everyone who uses Cabbage Tree Road, which is a very inadequate single lane road. The increase of truck movements will be very dangerous in this situation especially when using the already congested roundabout at Cabbage Tree Road and Nelson Bay Road. With other already approved mining operations in the area the present and future traffic interaction has great safety implications.

This proposal will also involve the removal of sand hills, which form a natural buffer against noise generated from the Williamtown civil airport and RAAF base.

This proposal should not proceed until the Williamtown contamination issue is resolved.

It seems unbelievable that this proposal is even being considered until the risks of any soil disturbance have been fully assessed.

Has any assessment been undertaken in regard of the water that is to be used onsite?

The buffer of 1 meter above ground water does not seem adequate as the local flooding will attest to, ground water at times, rising to surface water. With contaminants being found in both ground and surface water in some areas.

The koala population within the Port Stephens Council area is recognised as one of only a few significant colonies within NSW and is already under serious threat from habitat loss and predation.

The comprehensive Koala Plan of Management (PSC 2002a) recognises this area as including both preferred koala habitat and supplementary habitat. The EIS concludes, "***the project may result in a significant impact on this species***".

This is totally unacceptable, with little mitigation proposed.

The cumulative effect of losing a small piece of koala habitat from all of the numerous developments proposed around the Port Stephens area has reached a critical point. No further loss can be acceptable if we are to ensure the survival of the local koala population.

The EIS has no specific offsets to the proposal; there is only a promise of consideration later. Details about the rehabilitation of the site only make reference to consideration 3 years prior to the sites closure. (12 years after start of mining). Each area within the site should be rehabilitated as mining is completed.

It has been noted that there will be very few jobs created with this proposal and that there is no shortage of sand available from other sites within Port Stephens and elsewhere. This gives the proposal a very weak economic case.

We trust that you might consider these reasons towards a decision to not allow sand mining at this site.

Regards

David and Lynn Edge