

To Whom It May Concern

SUBMISSION FOR PROPOSED SAND MINE AT 398 CABBAGE TREE ROAD, WILLIAMTOWN

Our names are Greg and Louise Callaghan and we live at 441 Cabbage Tree Road, Williamtown which as you can see is a very short distance from where the proposed controversial sand mine is to be. We have lived at this address for the last 15 years. We are members of the Williamtown and Surrounds Residents Action Group.

We fully oppose going forward with this sand mine and will make points as to why below:

1. Firstly we find that it is preposterous that this is even able to go ahead in the light of the RAAF base contamination. How can they mine without further impact and the potential spread of the contaminates, it sits directly in the middle of a declared 'red zone'. To us this is just ludicrous.
2. Koalas would be majorly affected as this area in Port Stephens is well recognised as a major habitat for them. We have noticed the decline of koalas in the last few years as sometimes we used to seem them cross the road, so this sand mine would probably wipe them out. Not to mention the many other wildlife and vegetation that flourish in this natural corridor of our coast.
3. What about the significant aboriginal archaeological factor in this area, surely our indigenous community are up in arms about this. Their voice is usually well heard but seems to be falling on deaf ears in this particular case.
4. What about the effects on the Tomago sand beds aquifer system, this would totally demolish it. We do not understand again how this can be violated in such a manner, it's a critical part of our ecosystem.
5. Traffic along Cabbage Tree Road has already increased over the last 5 years and to add hundreds of heavy trucks barrelling down the road is ridiculous. We believe we would see a serious rise in accidents and injury (if not deaths) because of this. We will have to be overly cautious on entering & exiting our property. In general the road will just not cope.
6. Noise will increase from the everyday operation of the sand mine as well as an increase in noise from the RAAF base when the natural sound buffer of the sand hills is taken away.
7. Pollution from the sand mine is also of concern. There will be an increase in dust and diesel emissions which is just not on, I (Louise) suffer from rhinitis and do not want another man made factor decrease the quality of the air that I breathe. And there is the worry of sand dust silicosis.
8. We are also concerned of the detrimental affect it will have on our property value, if our property decreases as an effect from this sand mine what compensation will be available to us?
9. If this sand mine goes ahead what is in place for rehabilitation of land at the end of the term?

Finally, we do not need another sand mine in this inappropriate location as there are 5 other mines located within 10km of the proposed site. This is all just a money making scheme and has been handled in a very poor manner right from the beginning of the questionable tender process and the actions by the Port Stephens Council.

Regards


Greg Callaghan


Louise Callaghan