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10th February 2016

Submission of Concern & Opposition - Re: Cabbage Tree Road Sand Mine

I am writing this letter of submission for and on behalf of the members of the Facer/King/Stevens family members who have and still continue to reside on the properties of 100 /98 Cabbage Tree Road Williamtown. In light of the recent revelations in relation to contamination of the surrounding properties and waterways by the chemicals PFOS & PFOA exiting the Williamtown RAAF base, by the Department of Defence I felt compelled to write to this submission in relation to the proposed Cabbage Tree Road Sand mine.

This development would only exacerbate an already catastrophic environmental disaster of epic proportions that has affected the fragile eco-system of flora and fauna in the region. The adverse effects of increased heavy vehicular traffic and noise would only add to that which is already emitted from low flying air traffic exiting the Williamtown RAAF base and civilian air terminal. This increase in heavy vehicular traffic would be further detrimental to the quality of life of residents who reside in the area not to mention the damage to the sub-standard Cabbage Tree Road pavement which fails to cope with present volume of traffic and regularly requires the shovel brigade to patch enormous pot holes. Already submitted to excessive airborne noise pollution, this added vehicular noise pollution only intensifies the anguish suffered by residents.

Dust from the development is another facet which would encroach on dwellings, desirable lifestyles and standards of living of those with in close proximity of the area. Dust partisans from both the mining of the sand as well as that from the heavy vehicular movements into, around and out of the sand mine site would be injurious to the community. With the known contaminants, PFOS and PFOA in the ground water supply, which threatens the viability and sustainability of the Tomago Sand Beds in continuing to be an integral water supplying source for the Hunter Region, this development would only further augment the potential environmental disaster. Therefore the suppression of airborne dust particles through means of irrigation from the sub-surface water supply is not a feasible option.

The preservation of the endangered habitat of the Port Stephens koala population is yet another paramount issue that has to address when determination of the development is considered. On many occasions after bushfires have ravaged the local area koalas that have recovered and recuperated after the treatment of burns etc. have been released into the tree vegetation on our property. This vegetation is considered vital in the survival of the species in the area. The proposal to annihilate and desecrate the vegetation in this vicinity is in stark contrast to the conservation efforts where the area was ratified as protected koala habitat, therefore the actions of the Department of Environment and Planning to even consider such a proposal is negligent.

The protection of a site is imperative to the conservation of land that is of cultural significance to the traditional land owners. The area should be preserved for future generations. The degradation only sets to destroy artefacts and areas that are of sacred and spiritual connotation to the descendants of the original inhabitants.

With consideration of the concerns which have been raised we vehemently oppose the Cabbage Tree Road Sand Mine.

Yours Sincerely,

Kim-leeanne King