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Dear Carl,

I had some problems using the portal yesterday and I was informed that you would accept email submissions today for this reason - thankyou for this,

Kind regards,

Mila

Maroota Friable Sandstone Extraction Project

Application Number SSD-10410.
EPBC ID Number 2021/8913

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a Councillor at The Hills Shire Council, a resident of North Ward (near Maroota) and a Veterinarian.

I wish to object to the above State Significant Development on behalf of our local community for the following reasons:

- Shale Sandstone Transition Forest is listed as critically endangered under the EPBC Act and this proposal will directly impact 28.8ha (a huge area) of this threatened ecological community. This represents 80% of this critically endangered community within this patch.
- There is unacceptable risk of local extinction; This action will adversely affect the habitat critical to survival of this threatened community:
 - a) by removing 28.8ha of high quality threatened community vegetation
 - b) The **extraction** of Hawkesbury sandstone will change or destroy abiotic factors (water, nutrients and especially soil) critical to the survival of this community
 - c) The proposed action will likely mobilise pollutants which will affect any remaining community and further threaten its survival.

The project will result in removal of a threatened ecological community, threatened species and threatened species habitat.

In total there will be 50.95 ha of native vegetation removed which provides habitat for threatened and non-threatened flora and fauna.

The time has come where we need stronger environmental protections, we cannot keep making exceptions and causing continued ecological damage beyond the ability for it to recover. Australia already has a shocking land clearing record and this needs to be rapidly reversed.

- There is no adopted or made Recovery Plan for this proposal.
- A Fauna Management Plan must be implemented that operates within the Standard Codes of Practice for Injured, Sick and Orphaned Protected Native Fauna and all fauna handlers must be experienced and trained in fauna handling. Correct licenses must be held by any person handling fauna for the purpose of demolition, vegetation clearing and development works.
- The quarry will be supplied by bore water and surface water and a large dam will be constructed to retain water for use in the quarry. Both the bore water consumption and the water held in the dam will adversely affect the important ecological area of the Jacksons Swamp.
- Local community groups have recently discovered platypus DNA in the Cattai and Little Cattai Creek. Platypus is threatened in our area and could definitely be affected by declining health of the Jackson Swamp and surrounding waterways
- Although the Hills Shire Council LEP and DCP controls do not apply to this development (as it is a SSD), when challenged with these controls the outcomes are poor.
- Heavy vehicle movement (120 per weekday and 60 per Saturday) will add cumulatively to the impact (to residents and to cost of road repair) of large trucks travelling along Wisemans Ferry and Old Northern Road.
- Our Shire is already changing, growing and developing at a rapid rate due to State Government plans for huge residential growth in the North West Corridor. We already are faced with so much destruction to green space and tree canopy. This area is healthy, pristine, and contains ecologically threatened communities. There must be other areas more suitable and less destructive to mine sand from.

Please assist our local community in their drive to protect what is rapidly disappearing in the Hills Shire. Areas such as this, are held dear to many residents - as can be seen in the extensive opposition to the clearing of threatened ecological species at 55 Coonara Ave, West Pennant Hills adjacent the Cumberland State Forest.


We have a duty of care to the local community and future generations in protecting them from the impacts of climate change (recent floods affected this local area, and in other years there is serious threat of bushfire). Continuing to clear vegetation at the current rate is unsustainable and accelerates the effects of global warming. It also makes a mockery of our efforts to replant trees and restore our tree canopy to State Government targets. We will not get there just by replanting, we must also preserve trees - particularly if these communities cannot be replaced and will be lost forever.

I urge you strongly to reject this damaging proposal.

Thankyou for the opportunity to submit these comments,

Kind regards,





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