

Cherry Hood,
Arthurs Rd.,
Towrang, 2580.

Department of Planning
And Environment,
22-23 Bridge Street,
Sydney, 2000

11th May 2016

Dear Sir,

Re: Gunlake Quarry Expansion Project

I moved to Towrang 11 years ago and built my studio and home here to take full advantage of the spectacular and unspoilt landscape of the Towrang Valley. I saw then something quite special. It is still here today, but it is under threat.

I operate a home stay business at my home and farm for visitors from Sydney, Interstate and overseas. My property looks out over the Towrang Valley, towards the Gunlake Quarry. The quarry itself is currently just hidden behind a hill. People are attracted to my property by the unspoilt rural views over the Towrang Valley and the peace and tranquillity it offers.

I am also a well known artist and also conduct regular art schools at my property. Again, my students and I value highly the beauty and tranquillity of this beautiful rural area.

I am extremely concerned at the proposed Gunlake expansions which will;

- Increase extraction of hard rock from 750,000 tonnes per annum to 2,000,000 tonnes per annum,
- continue to operations for another 30 years,
- increase truck movements from 164 per day to an average of 440 per day, and a maximum of 690 truck movements per day, 24 hours per day,
- increase equipment needed to produce 2 m.t.p.a. e.g. additional excavators, crushers, etc.
- allow hard rock crushing, stockpiling, truck loading 24 hours a day (except Sundays)

Such an unrestrained expansion would have a massive impact on the local community and local environment, and also on my quiet enjoyment of my property and my home. It will also have a very significant impact on my business and income.

Already, when a light breeze is blowing our way, we can hear the rock crushing at Gunlake. To allow this to occur 24 hours a day without any sound restraint would destroy our quality of life and have a huge impact on my business here. It is after all the peace and tranquillity and natural beauty of the area that attracts people. I know Holcim have built a sound proof shed over their crushing equipment. Why doesn't Gunlake have to do the same thing?

I am astonished that anyone could think putting 440 heavy trucks a day, and on some days up to 690 heavy trucks a day along Brayton Road and the Bypass Road is a good idea. If these trucks are allowed to run 24 hours a day, as is proposed by Gunlake, that would be equal to one 40 tonne truck every 2 minutes on a small winding country road. This will pose a huge safety risk for locals and visitors, to say nothing of the noise, congestion and unnecessary greenhouse gas and other pollution produced.

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It will also tear the road to pieces. Brayton Road is already under constant repair and the Bypass Road in need of major repair, due to the current rate of quarry trucks using it. If Gunlake are allowed to run 690 trucks a day, the road surface will be decimated. This will result in continual repairs, which will result in major delays, bunching of the trucks, congestion for everyone and an increased risk of a major accident. These roads are also often subject to very thick fog regularly throughout the year. Such a traffic plan is a recipe for disaster.

Of course, these trucks would also then travel along the Hume Hwy for approximately 200 kms to the outskirts of Sydney creating the same problems there as well.

I have also seen some of Gunlake's other "transport options" including building a trucks only haul road through the middle of the Towrang Valley to the Hume Hwy to carry this projected 690 truck per day. Such a proposal would completely destroy the beauty and tranquillity of the Towrang Valley. It would also destroy the amenity and lifestyle of all those who live nearby. It would also put a major truck route alongside the Wollondilly River, a major source of Sydney's drinking water. Such a proposal could not be considered feasible.

The only logical means by which Gunlake should ship its product to market is by rail, as Holcim does from its Lynwood quarry next door. I note Gunlake were required to explore the option of using Holcim's rail siding for shipping, but it is obvious from Gunlake's E.I.S. that they still haven't had that discussion with Holcim. I submit that until Gunlake can find a way to ship all product to Sydney by rail, their application for expansion should be rejected.

For all the reasons noted above, I submit the Gunlake Expansion Project be rejected.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Cherry Hood'.

Cherry Hood.