

## **Objection to Gunlake Quarry Extension Project SSD7090**

**I have lived here for over 30 years and during this time, in particular more recent times, I have noticed a fair bit of change. This is in relation to development and increased traffic on Brayton Rd. When I moved here with my family, we moved here for the quiet and peaceful country lifestyle. Over the last 7 years things have really changed. There has been increased traffic, in particular truck movements, extra blasting, extra noise and dust.**

**With the proposed changes to Gunlake and the restrictions currently imposed on them, I already have concerns, for my health and safety, particularly noise and dust and airborne particulates as well as traffic. I am concerned that with the extension of Gunlake it will devalue properties in the area and the reduced saleability of the properties, especially mine. As this extension is 800 metres to my boundary. This is my and my family's investment and our future.**

**If the increase in production is granted, I feel that I will be significantly affected. At this time at the current allowances to Gunlake with their production, I am already being affected by their noise, dust and other air borne particulates.**

**During their current hours of operation, I can hear constant noise coming from them. This is heard both inside and outside of my house. When inside my house I do get some relief from the constant noise, but this is only if I have my house all closed up. The noise is still there, only quieter. There are times that I want or need to open my windows to let in the breeze to cool and / or freshen the air in my home. It is not always practical to be in the house locked away from the noise. I do need to be outside attending to farm and household duties. With the increase in production and extension of the quarry moving closer to my property these noise impacts will be closer and sound louder.**

**I am finding that there is more dust in the air than prior to Gunlake's operations. I can often see plumes of dust above the quarry. The prevailing winds bring the dust plume over my place engulfing me in a particulate laden dust cloud. I can go inside to be away from these particulates, but again as I have farm and household duties to perform outside, I am not always able to do so.**

**I care for my grandchildren and like many country children they love to be outside. My concern for them is breathing these dust and other particulates into their developing bodies. What affect long term is it having on them? Children should be outside developing their gross motor skills and warding off the obesity crisis without any concerns for their health. There is also the concern of the constant noise that they also can hear.**

**A dust plume blows over the ridge from Gunlake, highlighted by afternoon sunlight**



**I also have concerns for my health. I now have chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) with the extra dust and other particulates, including diesel from the machines and trucks, I am having more attacks and this is impacting on my life.**

**I have noticed that my washing feels gritty when I bring it in from the line. This is particularly noticeable on days when the plume of dust comes over. I do like the clothes to be dried by the sun to give them an added freshness, but this is not always the case. With large items such as sheets I have no option but to hang them out as I have nowhere else to air them.**

**In more recent times, since 2009 I have and am still finding that there is more dust settling in my house. I am having to clean and dust more often just to keep the place looking clean, and keep on top of it.**

**I have at times, not only outside, but inside my house been able to taste the dust, just from breathing.**

**This is a rural area and I, like most rural residents rely on rain water as my main source of water for drinking and domestic use. I am concerned about the dust settling on my roof and then being washed into my water supply. I can at times taste the dust in the water, concerning me about the quality of the water and if there may be any impacts on my health or that of my family.**

With Gunlake's increased production rate there is also an increase in the number of trucks and extending the primary crushing to 24 hour a day, will have a bigger impact on me and my family than it already does. We may only be small in number but we do matter.

I am also objecting to the increased movements of trucks. I am already seeing safety concerns with the trucks, and there will also be increased noise and dust associated with them.

I cross Brayton Rd on foot daily, and on numerous occasions I have had been alarmed at the danger of trucks hurtling past. For example, I have ushered my grandchildren back into my driveway and up towards the house while waiting for the school bus, as one fully laden Gunlake truck overtook another fully laden Gunlake truck heading down the hill towards Marulan, they were approaching at high speed.

I have also, on other occasions when driving, had Gunlake trucks appear from nowhere and are then right on my tail even when driving at the speed limit, concerning me when I need to turn off Brayton Rd and enter my driveway. At times they seem to be coming so fast or are so close to me, I don't know if they will see my indicator and my intention of turning, and be able to slow down in time. I feel that speed is the issue here. The trucks need to slow down. I have followed Gunlake's trucks in both directions on Brayton Rd and travelling in my car between 90 and 100km/hr, the gap between us doesn't seem to get smaller. At a meeting I had with Ed O'Neil in January 2016 he told me that the quarry had enforced an 80km/hr speed limit on Gunlake's trucks. These trucks from my experience in this documented evidence they are not travelling at the quarry's speed limit of 80km/hr. Who then enforces this?

Even exiting my driveway can now be concerning. With the road having been upgraded the vision toward Marulan (down the hill towards the creek) has been greatly minimised. The road surface outside my property was made considerably higher, thus inhibiting visibility to the creek. Prior to the upgrade I had full vision to the creek, now I can only see for about 60 or 70 metres and with the trucks moving at speed they are upon my gate way without warning.

The conveying of trucks out of or into Gunlake during school bus times, I feel is dangerous. This is a safety concern for all children waiting to cross the road to either catch the bus or when they get off the bus. Children can be unpredictable and let's limit any extra risks to them. I am asking that during school bus times (7am-9am and 3pm-5pm) trucks are not allowed to travel in convoy for the safety of our children. According to the Goulburn Post, August 3, 2015, at a public meeting, Ed O'Neil wanted to alleviate safety concerns of residents by including a 60km/hr speed limit for trucks during school bus times and flashing lights along the haul route. This has not happened, but I think this would be great for the safety of the children to slow down the trucks during school bus times. School bus signs have been placed on Bypass Rd and Brayton Rd near Gunlake entrance and either

side of the intersection of Bypass Rd, but this was done by the council after I contacted them with my concerns of lack of school bus signs on these roads.

I have noticed and felt the beginnings of pot holes and other wear and tear on the upgraded road section of Brayton Rd and on the Bypass Rd. With extra traffic in particular trucks this will only continue to degrade the road surface. Before Brayton Rd road surface was upgraded the road was a mosaic, with different coloured tar patching the road, and not always at the same level, making it a bumpy ride. I am concerned that this may happen again.

I have experienced the poor visibility at the intersection of Brayton Rd and Bypass Rd (turning off Bypass Rd). The visibility heading towards Gunlake is poor. There is a dip and then the rise up the hill. Vehicles are travelling at least 100km/hr. The visibility towards Marulan on Brayton Rd is also poor. There is a bend and trees just before the intersection and traffic is also travelling up to 100km/hr.

Another experience is the lack of a slip lane on the Hume Highway at Redhills Rd. I know that pulling out here you are stopped or only going slow, after the dog legs on Redhills Rd and coming to the intersection. I know that the traffic travelling on the Hume Highway is doing at least 110km/hr, so you need a good space to be able to pull out into it. A car has fairly good speed pick up, but not so with a fully laden truck. I feel a slip lane here would make it safer for all traffic.

In October 2015, for some weeks, Gunlake ran their trucks into the early hours of the morning. During this time the noise from these trucks rattling and rumbling past my home, resulted in me having disturbed sleep. Due to this disturbed sleep, I was then sleep deprived. This sleep deprivation had an effect on my overall health. I am worried that if there is an increase in the amount of trucks permitted to travel past my home, particularly during the night when it is my body's natural sleep time, this could result in far worse health issues for me. According to my doctor it is extremely important for me to get a good night's sleep, to maintain my health.

With the upgrade of the road surface on Brayton Rd so too has come the noise. The road surface that is now on this section of Brayton Rd is quite noisy. This is not just noticeable when outside or in my home but when I'm driving my car too. With extra truck movements this will increase the amount time I am affected by the noise.

Another impact of noise for me is the reflected noise from the new guard rail. After the road surface of Brayton Rd was upgraded, a guard rail was placed on the other side of the road to my home. I have noticed an increase in noise that is reflected to my home, in particular my bedroom once the guard rail was installed. This and the noisy road surface exacerbate the noise.

**I object to the extension of the footprint of Gunlake. Already this quarry has changed the view of the landscape. Big piles of gravel are visible as too is the pit. It is no longer a quiet, peaceful rural lifestyle with rolling hills and trees, instead there's a giant scar on the landscape.**

**Dust being emitted from Gunlake Quarry**



**I object to the 24 hour per day primary crushing. Already, with Gunlake's current operations I am suffering the impacts of their quarrying, with their noise and dust. These problems are already concerning for me.**

**With the primary crusher operating 24 hours per day, I would not get any reprieve from the constant noise. With the current restrictions on Gunlake's hours of use on their primary crusher I know that during the night (as long as there are no trucks running) my sleep shouldn't be disturbed by their noise. If it goes 24 hrs there will be no respite from the noise for me.**

**Also with the primary crusher comes dust. I have seen and have evidence of the dust plume put out by Gunlake. If Gunlake are granted permission to use the primary crusher 24 hours per day I will not get any reprieve from the dust. There will be more dust landing on my roof and washing into my drinking water, in my home settling for me to clean and breathe as well as being in the air with other particulates outside. I am already restricted in opening my windows to allow the air to flow through, doing so mainly at night when there is less chance of dust and noise from Gunlake. Allowing them to operate the primary**

crusher 24 hours per day would limit or even prevent me opening my windows. This is a freedom I have a right to enjoy.

I object to the blasting twice weekly. In October 2015 I contacted Ed O'Neil about some concerns and queries that I had with Gunlake. One of these queries was why I wasn't being contacted by them when they blasted. The answer he gave me was, because he didn't have to, but he could add me to the list of I wanted. This I did and was then added. They do now ring me and notify me of the window of time in which they are going to blast. When they do blast my house shakes with varying degrees of force. Sometimes these blasts are so strong I am concerned that it is doing damage to my house, sheds and other infrastructure. I watch items on cabinets, tables and benches move. There is also the plume of extra dust that is put up from these blasts. It is placing extra particulates into the air, for me to breathe. This is a trigger for a COPD attack. The dust then settles on my washing, roof – later washing it into my water supply and in my home. The noise from these blasts even though I have a time window they still can give me a fright. They are loud. One blast a week is already impacting on me. Two would just create extra stress and concern for me.

I object to the quarrying operations continuing for 30 years. I will probably not be around for another 30 years, but my family and friends will be. These people live in the area too and they are also already impacted by the operations of Gunlake just like me, with noise, dust and other particulates. They have concerns about these impacts on their health and safety and quality of life. It is a quiet rural lifestyle we have come here for not a to be dominated by loud industrial pollution. As Gunlake's footprint expands over these years so too will the scar on the land. The concern that land values will drop and the saleability of these properties will decrease due to others not wanting to live and invest in land close to quarrying activities.

At the meeting in October 2015, Ed O'Neil did offer double glazing on my windows and air conditioning to help with the noise and dust. In January 2016 after talking to my family I organised another meeting with Ed. I had decided to take him up on the offer of double glazing on my windows. I felt I was unable to take up the offer of air conditioning due to being a pensioner I wouldn't be able to afford the electricity to run it.

At this meeting in January, I told Ed that I would like to take up the offer of only the double glazing and explained why I couldn't take up the offer of air conditioning. It was then that Ed said he would only do half the house. He would only double glaze the upstairs. This would only be done if I signed an indemnity protecting him from litigation, preventing me from being able to complain.

This caused me some distress and I received legal advice. After receiving that advice I decided not to go ahead the double glazing. I feel that Ed O'Neil was trying to bully me and trick me into signing papers that would stop me from having a voice. I feel the

mitigation offered was unreasonable. Half a house isn't all I live in, I use the whole house and the impacts are the same whether I'm upstairs and down.

To all this development application proposals, increasing production rate; increasing the number of truck movements; extending the footprint of the quarry pit; constructing an additional overburden emplacement area; 24 hour per day primary crushing; blasting twice weekly and quarrying operations to continue for 30 years, *I object*. I feel that at the current state Gunlake is not meeting their obligations to limit impacts and until they do the extension should not be allowed.