

26 March 2017

**Re: Brandy Hill Quarry Expansion**  
**Application No: SSD 2588**

To whom it may concern,

This submission is in opposition to the **proposed expansion of Brandy Hill Quarry** located at 979 Clarence Town Road Seaham.

This opposition is based on several immediate and future impacts that will / could affect the local community, native wildlife, plant species and waterways.

**Immediate Impacts:**

**1. Increased local traffic –**

- a. the development application provides information pertaining to the current and proposed increase in truck movements and the 'general route' being Brandy Hill Road.  
There are no guarantees trucks will be limited to the 'general route' which could be changed short or long term according to location of markets.
- b. Planning Services, Department of Planning and Environment (Department) should also consider the impact other industries will have on the local road network ie Martins Creek Quarry expansion
- c. The existing road network has been developed over many years to cater for passenger and light vehicles. It is evident after a few days of rain that the local roads are not capable of withstanding large volumes of heavy vehicles.  
Considerable investment in upgrading the structural integrity of the roads will be required to ensure the safety of all road users.
- d. The proposed heavy vehicle route will travel from and to the quarry via Brandy Hill Road. As per point C this road was designed for local light vehicles. Some minor widening has occurred recently to try to accommodate heavy vehicles but the safety of the local community has not been adequately addressed in regards to:
  - i. Entry and exiting from private dwellings
  - ii. Adequate pull off areas for the school bus **and especially** parents vehicles parking when dropping off and waiting for return of children
  - iii. Safe pedestrian traffic
  - iv. Safe bicycle roadway

**2. Noise –**

The Development Application requests "Amending quarrying operating hours: Continuing product loading and despatch hours as 24 hours per day."

The quarry operates in an area within close proximity to a significant number of households.

A 24 hour per day operation will impact on the residents within close proximity of the quarry and along the transport route.

Independent noise monitoring of current operations should be undertaken by the Department to assess the impact 24 hour operations will have on the community.

**3. Vibration –**

Any quarry operation using drill and blast techniques for product extraction impacts the surrounding area with vibration. Expanding operations will result in additional blasting and hence additional vibration to the surrounding area.

The resulting void after quarry operations cease will be 78m deep hole.

The Department should seek expert advice on the impact quarrying to 78m deep will have on vibration travelling through the surrounding strata.  
Blasting should be limited to daylight hours only to minimise the impact on local residents.

#### **4. Dust –**

Like vibration from blasting and significant increase in quarry operations will have a significant impact on dust generation.

The very nature of loading trucks with front end loader and increased vehicular traffic on unsealed quarry roads will generate significantly more dust.

High winds are generally from the west. The quarry is due west of the largest concentration of local residents, that being along Brandy Hill Road.

Hot dry westerly winds will pick up loose material from the quarry site and deposit it on the local community.

Introducing concrete recycling and a batching plant will increase the possibility of finer dust particles as concrete dust is significantly finer than quarry dust.

The Department needs to consider all dust mitigation measures in the Development Application especially in regards to concrete dust.

#### **5. Lowering of property values –**

The combination of the above concerns; increased local traffic, noise, vibration and dust will impact on the property values in the local area should approval be granted for the expansion of Brandy Hill Quarry.

The quarry owners should compensate the local community for lowering their property values by providing some form of value adding infrastructure accessible to and for the benefit of the community.

What this infrastructure will be should be decided by the affected community.

#### **6. Vegetation –**

Removal of 49 hectares of vegetation will have an impact on native animals and birds.

The Seaham area provides habitat for many native birds, animals, reptiles and mammals.

Koalas are known to exist in the area – the writer sighting three koalas this summer on his property.

Many native birds that frequent the area are migratory. Destruction of habitat could impact on migratory patterns. Refer Attachment 1

The previous owners of my property identified over 70 species of birds on the property.

#### **7. Waterways -**

Treatment and disposal of quarry generated water and naturally occurring water through rain or seepage must be considered.

The modelling provided in the Development Application uses rainfall rates on 1 and 2 year maximum levels.

With the already proven effects of global warming resulting in increased intensity and frequency of major storm events the groundwater run off rates in Deadmans Creek should be based on 100 year storm events not 1 and 2 year events.

**Future Impacts:**

The Department must seriously consider the Development Application for current **AND** future situations within the impact areas the quarry will have on the local community and the environment both current and future. The Development Application is to apply for the next 30 years.

Consider what has changed in your area over the last 30 years and consider what developments etc. could take place in the next 30 years.

**1. Additional Traffic Increases –**

- a. There is no guarantee treatment of concrete waste or sales of concrete from the batching plant will not increase over the time frame the Development Application covers thus putting more trucks onto the local road network and more dust into the environment.
- b. The Department should consider the strong possibility of **substantial** urban development in the Clarence Town, Seaham, Wallalong and especially Nelsons Plains areas within the next thirty years.  
Any substantial urban development will increase traffic. When mixed with heavy vehicles from the quarry a disaster or multiple disasters is highly likely.

**2. Rehabilitation of the Site –**

Site rehabilitation after quarrying ceases should be critically examined to ensure the site is left in a useable condition.

A 78m deep steep sided void is 'not' a useable condition for anything other than a refuse tip site.

Disposal of waste is an ever increasing burden and substantial cost to local councils. A 78m void close to Newcastle and Maitland would be highly attractive and sought after. The revenue the quarry owners could demand may also be highly attractive.

Should approval be granted for the Development Application the Department must include as part of the development consent that the site must be rehabilitated so that there is no void and the land is left in a usable state for agriculture or housing development.

Specific reference must be made that the site cannot be used for the purposes of waste disposal, recycling and or storage.

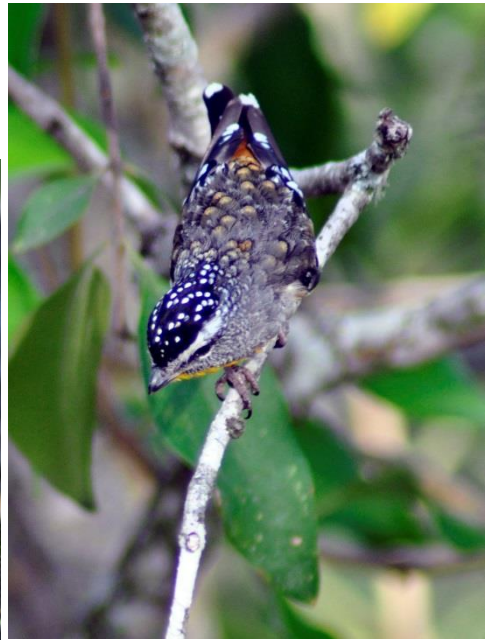
Your due consideration of the above points in opposition to the proposed expansion of Brandy Hill Quarry will be most appreciated.

Yours sincerely

John Beesley



Eastern Yellow Robin



Spotted Pardalote



Red-browed Finch



Speckled Warbler



King Parrot



White Throated Night Jar on nest



Koala in the Seaham area -

