

Brandy Hill quarry extension objection;

Being a new resident of Brandy Hill Drive with our home located within 200 metres of the entrance to the Brandy Hill quarry, I feel more than entitled to raise my objections to increasing the quarries capacity by up to 250% of current activity.

Brandy Hill is a Large Lot Residential area (R5) with a Rural Landscape (RU2) with over 600 residents in an area of less than 6.5km², which implies a mix of country and low density housing. This does not lend to over 100+ heavy truck movements per hour along a single lane road with no pathways, no designated bus stops for school children or adequate traffic management controls to allow residents to enter or egress an 80 km/hr road

While the Hanson owned Brandy Hill mine may be adequately zoned to conduct their activities, they should be considerate of their neighbours, some as close as 1,100 metres of the existing mine activity. Noise carries a long way at night and the proposed activities of the mine could be located even closer to residential premises. A lawn mower typically operates at 85 dB and is not allowed to start before 7:00am on most days in the Port Stephens Council: On average, a typical rock crushing plant operates at 110 dB.

The threat from Hanson of closing the mine if the expansion is not approved does not hold any validity. Current and proposed civil activity for NSW for the next 8 years is the most significant construction plan for the current generation. If the mine has been viable for the past 34 years, there is no doubt that it can remain profitable for the next decade in its current capacity. I can only see the expansion as a "grab for cash" at the expense of the local residents which is in stark contradiction to the facade presented by Hanson and their promise to work with the local community.

A summary of my objections are as follows;

1. 24/7 operation of the crushing and mining activity cannot be considered for the obvious reason of residential amenity;
2. Hours of operation should be limited to 7:00am to 5:00pm, Monday to Friday and 8:00am till midday Saturday as truck movements currently start around 5:00am or one hour prior to stated opening hours;
3. More than doubling the heavy vehicle movements above existing movements along Brandy Hill Drive cannot be considered due to inadequate infrastructure and being a residential area and a residential road;
4. Brandy Hill is a residential area zoned R5 (large lot residential), only 4.5 km's in length with over 600 residents and is not suited to over 100 heavy vehicle movements per hour during peak traffic activity;
5. Brandy Hill Drive was not constructed as an arterial road designated for heavy vehicles and in my opinion, currently should be considered in poor condition;
6. I have not been able to source The Traffic Management Plan and the Driver Code of Conduct, as referred to in the Traffic Impact Assessment, to understand how Hanson believe they can reduce "much of the road noise issue and residential amenity issues". I can attest that existing practices are inadequate and would not meet the Port Stephens Council guidelines Noise Control for residential areas such as Brandy Hill;
7. Proposed route of Brandy Hill Drive is at capacity with existing vehicle movements and any additional vehicles should be directed along an alternative route;