

31<sup>st</sup> March 2017



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Howard Reed - Resource Assessments

Planning Services

Department of Planning & Environment

GPO Box 39, SYDNEY NSW 2001



**Hanson's Brandy Hill Quarry Expansion – Application No SSD-5899**

Dear Sir,

**I OPPOSE THE HANSON'S BRANDY HILL QUARRY EXPANSION .**

The proposal to operate the quarry 24/7 at 1.5 million tonnes production with, in excess of 100 truck movements per hour, is totally unacceptable to the community in which it operates for the following reasons:-

A significant increase in **truck movements** will have the following detrimental effects:-

- An increase in wear & tear on road surfaces not built to sustain such heavy constant traffic. Potholes are common place now & would only increase, compromising driver safety.
- An increased potential risk of accidents for local drivers navigating around and in between trucks which are often speeding.
- An increase danger / risk with drop off / pickup of school children at inadequate bus stops. Are you waiting for a tragic accident before acting?
- Increased noise pollution to residents along roadways and Raymond Terrace higher density residential areas.
- Increased exposure to diesel fumes with the scientifically proven health risks of lung and bladder cancer. (World Health Organisation 2012)  
A Canadian study by Weichenthal, S. et al. 2014 also states that **truck ratio** is one of the strongest **predictors** of mean near-road **ultrafine particle & black carbon concentrations**. This has a significant impact on cardiovascular morbidity / mortality.
- Potential sleep deprivation for residents along roadways with 24/7 truck movements. Perception of noise is higher at night.

Characterizing the impact of traffic & the built environment on near-road UFP & BC concentrations. Weichenthal, S. et al. 2014. Environmental Research. Vol 132: 305-310

Expansion of the quarry **size & operation** will have the following detrimental effects:-

- Increased dust pollution to those living around the perimeter of the quarry.
- Increased noise pollution due to 24 hour operation which would compromise sleep.
- Increased ground vibration from blasting... what would be the longterm effect on house structures?
- Native bird and animal habitats will be compromised by the expansion of the pit. **Has the area been assessed for any sensitive flora & fauna issues?**

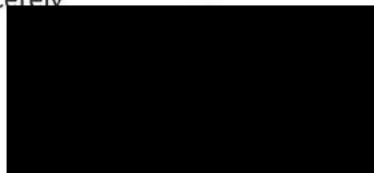
The overall impact of this will be reduced quality of life for the community residents and reduced property values in the vicinity.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

- The current hours of operation ( 12 hrs / day, 6 days /wk) are an adequate operational time frame.  
Has Hansons looked at **strategies to improve efficiency** within this time frame and hence **improve productivity?**
- **The impact of Hansons truck movement MUST be considered in conjunction with the Martins Creek Expansion proposal.**
- To demonstrate community responsibility, Hansons should provide new infrastructure to mitigate safety concerns and to ensure an ongoing harmonious partnership within the community.
- Hansons should commit to using trucks with **clean** engines to reduce the health risks to the community.
- **I challenge both the Hanson administration & the DPE to come and experience firsthand the impact of living and driving within the quarry environment at the present level of operation !!!**
- Any decisions made by the DPE should be clearly supported & documented by **independent evidence-based environmental impact research!!**

I trust that these comments and recommendations will be considered seriously and addressed thoroughly.

Yours sincerely

A large black rectangular box redacting the signature of the person who wrote the letter.

I have not made a reportable political donation