

Brandy Hill Quarry expansion

I strongly oppose the Brandy Hill Quarry expansion/operating hours

I am a resident of Giles Rd Seaham and I believe my health and the health of my family plus the lifestyle of my family and community will be affected by said proposed development.

Currently Giles Road is a quite residential area with a scattering of private houses set in a rural environment with a large variety of native fauna and flora.

While the current operations of the quarry are ever present – I believe the proposed development will adversely tip the balance of a harmonious community/industry relationship to the detriment of the local residents.

My concerns are as followed: in no particular order

Air Quality

- The proposed increase in quarry activity will have a massive effect on air quality with the introduction of fine particles to the atmosphere – both from actual quarry activities (blasting, crushing, loading, transport) and diesel emission from the large increase of truck movements. The link between airborne particles and adverse health effects have long been established and are at the forefront of all proposed mine/quarry development throughout the Hunter valley.
- Current air quality (particles) measurement techniques used are totally inadequate at best (and open to manipulation) and not industry best practice. There is no 'real time' data available supplied by continuous monitors for PM10, PM2.5 or PM1 (microns). This is not cutting edge technology – its standard practice in the twenty first century. I do not believe proposed EIS addresses all these issues.
- My experience has been when driving along Brandy Hill Drive approaching the quarry during daylight hours is the presence of a cloud of dust rising from the site. I have phoned the quarry several times enquiring as to why and what process is producing so much dust and have been told such stories as 'the water truck has broken down' and 'what dust? '!! I can only imagine how much dust may be produced in the cover of night? Please see below photos taken from Brandy Hill Drive on the 07/03/2017



Looking towards Brandy Hill Quarry from Brandy Hill Drive (07/03/2017)



Close up of dust cloud taken from entrance to Brandy Hill Quarry. (07/03/2017)

Noise from Quarry

- If you can imagine the sound of a tin can full of rocks being shaken up and down at a steady constant rate – this is what the sound of the crusher is like. Currently we have to put up with this not only during the day but often well into the evening - sometimes up to 10:00PM (I'm not sure if their current licence allows this?). If the proposal goes ahead we will be constantly assaulted with this invasive noise pollution while trying to conduct our normal life activities – such as sleeping. While I'm no expert on the effects of continuous noise I do know that sleep deprivation is a form of torture and has severe health implications.
- At night sound travels greater distances – we live on a ridge not down in a gully/valley where some noise monitors are positioned on Giles Road.

Truck movement

- The large projected increase in haulage trucks 24/7 on semirural roads is a recipe for disaster.
- While we do not have truck movement on Giles Rd we do have to turn onto Clarencetown Rd at the intersection of Croft Rd. With the current number of trucks this can be a very dangerous exercise and will only increase with the number expected if development approved. We also commute to Raymond Terrace via Brandy Hill Drive and to Maitland via Clarence Town Rd.
- We have a child attending school who catches a school bus on the southern side of Clarence Town Rd adjacent to Croft Rd and we are very concerned with the large increase in truck movements.
- Loss of native animals as road kill.

Blasting

- The proposed increase of rock extraction will increase the frequency of blasting. The blasting which we now see and hear will effect air quality with such pollutants as fine particles, and other cancer causing chemicals.
- We currently feel the vibrations from blasting and fear an increase will cause damage to our property

Light pollution

- Part of the reason people such as myself live in this rural setting is to appreciate the night sky. With the proposed quarry expansion and 24hour operation the light pollution emitted from the site will only increase an already excessively bright quarry area subjecting local residents to more intrusive quarry activities. I believe this has not been address in EIS

Native fauna and flora

- There is a diverse mix of native plants and animals which I believe will be impacted by the expansion and 24/7 quarry operation. Not only to the loss of habitat with increased area to be mined but the loss of life to nocturnal animals whose movements will be affected by increased vehicle traffic. It is a real privilege to live amongst a colony of koalas which inhabit the quarry site and adjacent bush and I fear for the survival of these endangered, beautiful animals.

As well as above points, if the proposed expansion is approved I believe the value of our property would decrease significantly.

The magnitude of this development is so out of step with the local community (as shown by attendance at meeting held at Raymond Terrace – 22/03/2017).

It will affect the lifestyle quality of surrounding residents which goes against Hanson Brandy Hill Quarry continued line of working with the local community and reinforces the strong belief that a large multi-national company is only interested in profits at the expense of all others.

Please consider the local community when deciding any approval to expand the Brandy Hill Quarry.

Yours Sincerely