

## **Submission regarding Brandy Hill Quarry Extension Application # 5899.**

This submission is in opposition to the proposed Brandy Hill Quarry Extension, particularly in regards to the proposed 24 Hour / 7 Days a week operating hours.

Our property is located on Seaham Road and trucks exiting Brandy Hill Drive going towards Raymond Terrace, pass our property. Trucks are heard from approximately 0530 to 1800 Monday to Friday and 0600 to 1200 on Saturdays. I will emphasize that we are not against the current operating regime of Brandy Hill Quarry.

Set out below are our main concerns for opposing the extension:

1. Seaham / Brandy Hill / Nelsons Plains are rural/semi rural communities, therefore many people (including ourselves) have chosen to live in the area for the lifestyle (ie: peace and quiet) it brings. As stated previously, we accept that Brandy Hill Quarry has been operating in the area for many years and is a part of the "local scene", however, an increase in heavy vehicle traffic from the quarry, especially at all hours, will most certainly have a significant negative impact on the community environment due to increased noise levels and frequency.

As we live directly underneath the air traffic approach path into Williamtown/Newcastle Airport, I think it is worthy to note that they have curfew times and strict noise regulations (particularly for civil aircraft) to operate in and out of the airport. The noise from the quarry trucks with the current operating regime is far more imposing than the noise from aircraft. Would you not find it somewhat hypocritical if the quarry were allowed to operate 24/7 when the local airport, (which would offer the opportunity to employ far more local residents), cannot?

2. The road infrastructure is suffering from the current traffic loading, an increase in heavy vehicle traffic will undoubtedly lead to further degradation, which we feel Port Stephens Council will struggle to keep on top of. Further to this, there are several road side school bus stops along the quarry haul routes, most of these bus stops are very inadequate or even non existent (ie: the bus just pulls to the side of the road to pick up school children). This is already an existing issue, and once again, an increase in heavy vehicle traffic will only exacerbate the problem, and we feel that the chance of a serious incident occurring will be greater.

In conclusion, we feel that because of these concerns, the Brandy Hill Quarry extension would be more detrimental to the Seaham community than beneficial.

If the extension is allowed to proceed, then provision must be put in place to:

- Improve and maintain the road infrastructure along haul routes, including better bus stop facilities. This must be done prior to extended operations being allowed to commence and the cost of this should not be brought upon Port Stephens Council and its rate payers.
- If haulage is allowed outside current operating hours ie: between 1800 and 0530 Monday to Friday and all day Sunday, then all heavy vehicles operating into and out of the quarry must meet strict noise limits. There currently does not seem to be any limitations enforced in relation to limiting the noise of the heavy vehicles and it is clearly evident that the noise will increase significantly with further traffic

Thank you for considering this submission.