

## **BRANDY HILL QUARRY EXPANSION**

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It's a quiet Sunday morning around 7.00am 9<sup>th</sup> April 2017 and I have ridden my son's mountain bike along Brandy Hill drive to see if I have concerns about the Brandy Hill Quarry expansion. This is my submission to the concerns I have and how it will affect me, my family and the local residents of Brandy Hill and surrounding areas.

I have lived at Brandy Hill for 24 years and was attracted to the area to raise our family in an idyllic quite, rural environment that had a progressive local public school and a general family based community. This rural country lifestyle has been eroded away over the last few years in two major ways.

- The expansion of the Martin's Creek Quarry and now Brandy Hill Quarry
- The increase of air traffic noise over Brandy Hill going to Williamtown airport with large commercial airlines and now the arrival of the F35s lead in fighter

I have several concerns:

### **1.0 Road condition**

I base my submission of the general poor state of the road surface. You don't appreciate the condition of the road travelling in a car at 80km an hour. On my bike ride this morning I counted 23 pot holes in the 4km stretch of Brandy Hill Drive with the potential of that figure doubling without urgent repair works being carried out over the next few weeks.

In the last 3 weeks a major pot hole developed at the corner of Leumeah Close and Brandy Hill drive. This was a significant hole that measured approx 1 m x 1m and the cars and truck crossed the double line to avoid the hole. This created a very dangerous condition and an area of risk to the safety all road users. Port Stephens Council carried out repairs temporary repairs within two weeks. This repair lasted one day before it was destroyed by the trucks and created an even dangerous situation for cars an traffic coming down Brandy Hill Drive and traffic existing and entering Leumeah close. The pot hole has now been repaired. Photo "A"



Photo A

There's quite a significant amount of evidence that Brandy Hill drive can't handle the current load of the trucks. These photos, "B, C & D", show the weight of the trucks pushing through the tar and creating large deformations in the road surface. The height of this contour is over 100mm. If a driver did cross over to travel around a cyclist that they could easily lose control.



Photo B

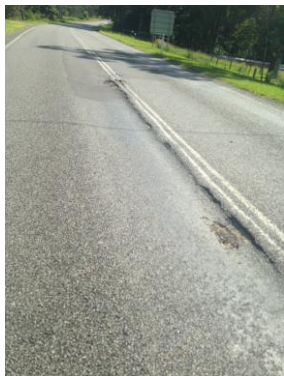


Photo C



Photo D

The following photos show how the road surface quickly breaks away after rain due to the weight of the trucks pushing through the tar due to cracks in the tar and the sub surface layer being water logged. The ongoing maintenance is just a repair only and despite new sections of road being replaced in the last 12months the new section already shows signs of degradation deformation and pot holes. Photos "E, F & G"



Photo E



Photo F



Photo G

Cracks repaired by sealing with tar, have opened up and water is penetrating sub surface and deformation and degradation is occurring at an accelerated rate due to the current traffic. Photos "H, I & G"



Photo H



Photo I



Photo G



## 2.0 Clarencetown Road from Seaham to Brandy Hill

The only speed sign on the approach to Brandy Hill Drive from Seaham is when you exit the 60km zone at Seaham. Here it changes to 100km/hr Photo K. The road is 2.7km long from here to Brandy Hill. Cars and trucks can do 100km/hr as they crest the hill, being 150m before the crossroad into the Quarry. This is a high risk collision zone of between cars and trucks crossing over Clarence town Rd. The signs request drivers to take caution and reduce speed. As you approach this intersection the reduce speed sign is obscured by a power pole and the intersection sign. Photos "L & M"

This intersection has no street lighting and no turning lane into the quarry for vehicles, trucks coming from Maitland. Photo "N"



Photo K



Photo L



Photo M



Photo N

(no Street light at Intersection)

## 3.0 Road width

Brandy Hill drive is narrow and in many sections has nowhere to walk or cycle as there are no foot paths or the road is not wide enough. The verge in some areas is only 500mm. "Photos O & P" There are two main fenced across filled land and two cuttings that make walking and riding off the road extremely difficult. Photo "Q & R"



Photos O



Photo P

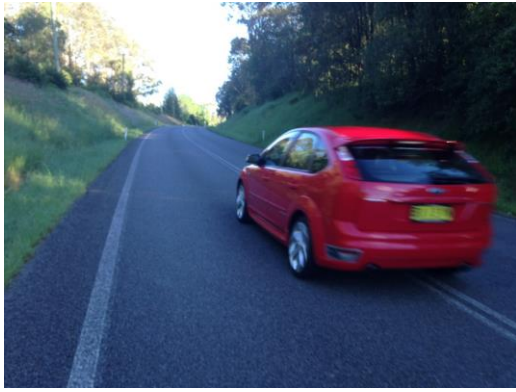


Photo Q



Photo R

As a cyclist and runner and a father of children that also cycle and run on Brandy Hill drive, I am deeply concerned that the road width is inadequate. It is a high risk zone and any increase in traffic especially trucks will have the potential of a serious accident. My daughter rides this road to Seaham Bowthorne soccer ground for training and despite the risk and take all the precautions that we can, I feel that the road could be a lot safer.

The following photo "S, T, U, V & W" were taken on a quite Sunday and in no way shows the danger of wider body truck passing cyclists. On several occasion truck have overtaken me on the crest of the hill. The potential of colliding with on coming traffic is extremley high especially at early morning or latter in the evening when people are coming home from work.



Photo S



Photo T

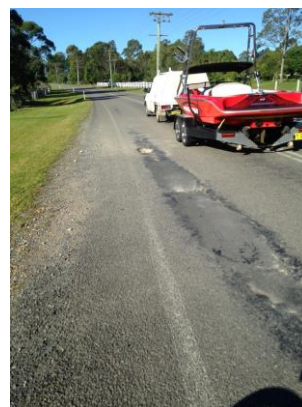


Photo U

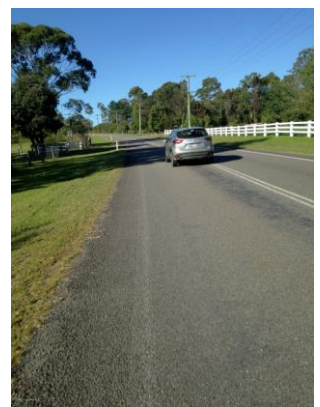


Photo V



Photo W

Early morning or late in the evening traffic crosses to other side of road up hill

#### 4.0 Land Value

The rural area is appealing to many people and the increase in noise generated by the quarry and trucks would devalue the area. Despite warning signs to limit compression braking there are a few areas that suffer increased noise under braking conditions.

- Trucks that come down Seaham road and turn at Brandy Hill drive empty rattle as they hit pot holes and brakes squeal.
- Trucks the brake with full loads due use exhaust brakes at the end of Brandy Hill drive turning into Raymond terrace road.

Trucks also accelerate hard which increases the engine noise when they turn into Brandy Hill drive.

Several homes are for sale and they are potential decreases in the value of the homes in Brady Hill due to the increase in noise especially if the trucks operate 24hrs a day. Photo "X & Y"



Photo X



Photo Y

The noise of the quarry and the trucks greatly affect the resale value of properties. As mentioned the added noise of the Lead in fighters flying directly over Brandy Hill will just compound the noise issue. Photo Z



NOISY: The F-35 Joint Strike Fighter jet has noisier take-offs and landings than the current Australian fleet of F-18 Hornets at Williamtown RAAF Base, a senior US Department of Defence officer has told Australian media.

Source: Newcastle Herald 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb 2016

Photo Z



## **5.0 The effect of family, friends, the wild life and the environment.**

The matters above greatly affect the safety of my family, as we travel this road at least 8 times a day for work, study and sport. We also use the edge of the road for cycling, running and walking. This mainly happens after work and on weekends when the trucks are usually not operating.

Any increase in truck movements has detrimental consequences on our overall wellbeing. I am concerned that this will lead to a fatality.

The wild life such as kangaroo, wallabies, possums, echidnas and many other animal cross Brandy Hill Road and over the last few years several have been hit and killed by vehicle.



## **6.0 Improvements and restrictions must be considered and implemented to make Brandy Hill Drive safer.**

- Increase the width of Brandy Hill drive.
- Increase the durability of the subsurface of Brandy Hill drive so it won't become a potholed road that the Port Stephens Council rate payers have the continually fund for the life of the quarry.
- Install a full cycle walking path the full length of Brandy Hill drive and link it to the Seaham Sports complex (Brandon Park). The extension from Brandon park to Brandy Hill we thought was in the original quarry approval.
- Lighting of the Brandy Hill – Clarencetown Road intersection
- Decrease speed limits approaching Brandy hill drive.
- Restrict truck movement to the hours of 6.30am to 9.00pm