

27 February 2017
P W Kleeman
123 Winston Road
EAGLETON NSW 2324

Planning Services
Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY, N.S.W. 2001
ATTN: Minister for Planning

REF: Opposing the Eagleton Hardrock Quarry Development

Application No: SSD 7332

Location: Lot 2 DP1108702, Barleigh Ranch Way, Eagleton

Applicant: Eagleton Rock Syndicate Pty. Ltd

I am opposed to the development of the above quarry. I fully support the submissions from members of the Eagleton Residents Action Group (ERAG). This submission is more concerned with conditions which should be attached to the Development Application **if, despite our objections, it is to be approved.**

In any proposal, there are assumptions, assertions and assessments made which, if contested, are unable to be fully resolved until the development **if approved** gets under way. It is therefore important that there are adequate safeguards that constraints outlined in the proposal and those imposed in any approval are observed.

My main aspects of concern are noise, dust, the intersection at Italia Road and the Pacific Highway, and site rehabilitation. Submissions by other residents give more detail of these and other objections to the proposed quarry. The following safeguards are considered necessary if approval is to be given.

1. **Traffic conflicts at the intersection of Italia Road and the Pacific Highway.** Local residents consider this intersection dangerous. (Right hand turns into and out of Italia Road are hazardous). The assessment given in the Development Application (DA) is at best marginal. Little regard is given to the likely increase in through traffic on the highway. The Roads and Maritime Services may decide that the intersection should be upgraded. The cost of upgrading should in part be borne by the operators of the Eagleton Quarry. One condition of any DA approval should be that the operators should bear not less than 20% of that cost. Note that the DA states that the company agrees to pay Port Stephens council a levy per tonne-km for maintenance of a portion of Italia Road.
2. **Noise.** Given my experience with noise from a "gravel quarry" in Winston Road, and the MX Central motor bike track (Council has been tardy in policing the conditions of use), I am apprehensive about noise from the Italia raceway which is still not operational and even more apprehensive about noise from the proposed Eagleton Quarry. Note that there is a respite centre on Six Mile Road which could be seriously impacted by noise (and dust) from the operations at the quarry. The DA mentions that it intends to monitor dust and particulate matter but does not include any provisions about monitoring noise. There should be a condition in any approval that the noise levels at residences in Six Mile Road be monitored by an independent consultant on a continuous basis (perhaps changing the site of the equipment monthly), the cost to be borne by the operators. If sound levels exceed specified levels, noise abatement measures such as better silencing of diesel engines and improved sound barriers around crushers and screens should be mandatory.

3. **Dust.** Monitoring of dust is listed in the DA but no details of locations of the monitors are given. Monitoring at locations as far away as Medowie should be mandatory.
4. **Site rehabilitation.** There is much concern in the community about rehabilitation at mine sites in the Hunter Valley and the number of companies becoming insolvent and “walking away” from rehabilitating sites such quarries. As a safeguard against this, the company operating the quarry should contribute annually to a trust fund no less than 3% of an agreed cost of rehabilitating the site (the fund to be paid out to the company at the end of operations).

In summary, residents should be spared the impacts of noise and dust, road users given a safe intersection and future generations an environment to appreciate.

Yours faithfully,

Peter Kleeman 123 Winston Road Eagleton NSW 2324