

Application no -SSD7332
Eagleton Rock Syndicate Pty Ltd

28th February 2017

To the Minister for planning,

I am writing this letter of opposition to the proposed Eagleton Rock Syndicate hard rock quarry currently being considered.

Application no- SSD7332, Barleigh Ranch Way, Eagleton, 2324

My family and I reside next door to the proposed site for the new unnecessary quarry on our rural farm property and with our residence only several hundred metres from the location.

There are many and varied reasons affecting both us personally as well as our neighbours and our community as a whole. There are also serious health and safety issues, environmental and financial impacts which stand to impact all those affected by this application and we believe far outweigh any reasons to approve such a development purely for some businessmen and their profit.

Every member of our small community has worked hard and poured everything into their properties to deliberately live in and bring up their families in a peaceful rural environment, which is increasingly under constant fire and attempts by developers to shoehorn in their unsuitable developments with little regard for the people whom have invested everything and have to live with the resultant consequences.

It is interesting to note that in the developers initial planning and consultation process carried out by Unwelt Pty Ltd both our property and my neighbours property which will also be one of the most directly affected properties were conveniently not included or noted in their consultancy. After learning of the application and sending an opposing correspondence, at least now we have force ably been acknowledged in the process.

Both ourselves and our entire surrounding community including the specialised respite centre business run by one of our close neighbours, whose facility has provided much needed vital support and care for the disabled and their families for close to 20 years, rely heavily on our fresh tank water supplies for our pure survival. These people work tirelessly in their business every day of the year and employ a large number of staff, providing their services to literally thousands of clients in support of the needs of these people in need personally, their families, and the community on large, and whom continually put back into the local community through their business operations many levels.

The levels of dust and contaminants that will be generated from the benching and excavation of the hill above us and its surrounding vegetation will undoubtedly impact heavily on us all with contamination of our only water supplies, and the unacceptable health related dust issues we stand to undoubtedly encounter, affecting both local business's as stated and local residents personally. This is all despite the developers unrealistic and unachievable claims of being able to control this 24hrs a day, 7 days a week.

Noise issues are also of major concern to us with heavy machinery operating above us, and within a few hundred metres at all hours without much respite according to the ludicrous proposed hours of operation being tabled by the developer.

Both ourselves and our surrounding affected neighbours will not be able to give our properties away despite pouring our lives and entire financial assets into our properties if this development is approved which is a completely unacceptable in exchange for lining pockets of select group of businessman.

A major point that needs your urgent attention is that as residents of Eagleton we already have to deal with some impact from the operations of the existing Boral Hard Rock Quarry with blasting, vibrations and noise issues despite them doing their utmost to have minimum affect on the community as possible, and being a much larger distance away from peoples homes and businesses.

Fortunately, and thankfully at the moment, this impact is nowhere near as severe as it could be as we have a decent buffer zone of vegetation and the large hill separating us from their operations and absorbing the majority of the noise, dust etc. This is the exact same vegetation that will be removed to facilitate the new proposed quarry and the exact hill that will be benched down and excavated for the material to be sold.

Not only will we suffer the impacts of the new quarry but this will be compounded and amplified by the exposure to the Boral operations that we are currently mostly protected from, creating an entire new set of serious noise, dust and health issues for the residents surrounding.

We fail to comprehend how there could be enough of a demand for the materials planning to be produced that would justify, and facilitate a second quarry being wedged in between residents and an existing quarry, all of this while located right in the middle of the Grahamstown Dam water catchment ?

We have also noted the extremely serious oversight in that there is no intention of upgrading the very dangerous intersection of Italia Road and the Pacific Motorway despite the massive increase in heavy truck and machinery numbers that will use this continuously, this on top of the trucks already operating and utilising this intersection with hundreds of movements per day from the Boral operation.

As we mentioned this is already an extremely dangerous intersection and this is a recipe for some very serious accidents. It will not be if major accidents happen it will be a matter of when and how often, at what human cost.

We also hold serious concerns as to the impact on our local native. We currently have huge numbers of native wildlife, including a Koala population that reside on our property and the surrounding properties, including the intended vegetation and the planned hill to be cleared and decimated. It is of major concern to us and our fellow community as to where these animals will be pushed to now, despite the Wildlife Corridor passing through the proposed site.

If this unnecessary development is approved despite all the important and valid reasons why it should not, I believe the developers have the responsibility to at the very minimum equip and compensate the directly affected local residents and their dwellings with whatever is necessary to off set at least some of the issues we do not currently experience whilst their proposed operation does not exist, and that they plan to be the direct cause of.

To name just a few, these being our tank water quality, allergies, dust and noise mitigation at whatever cost to them, although even these measures will not hand us back our lives.

Furthermore, forgetting about the tragic traffic accidents waiting to happen, the wildlife, the loss of people's livelihoods, lifestyles, financial losses, enjoyment of their surroundings, the native wildlife, the Grahamstown water catchment and so on, these individuals should be held accountable, and be made responsible for appropriate management of these major issues.

On behalf of my family and my fellow residents, thank you for your consideration of our concerns regarding this development.

Kind regards