

3rd March 2017

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



ATTN: Minster 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 wish to lodge an objection to the this proposed development due to the close proximity to existing residents and the impact this will have on homes, only 750 meters from the blast face of the quarry.

I object to this development for the following reasons:

1. NOISE

- By reducing the skyline (ie eliminating the hill), the new quarry will be removing a buffer that was protecting residents from the existing noise from the motorbike track, MG Car club circuit, Circuit Italia Raceway and Boral Quarry.
- Residents will feel the effect of the blasting from the new quarry and exaggerate the blast impact from the existing Boral Quarry.
- No cumulative assessment has been produced to take into account once the quarry site has been benched down on noise from current Boral Quarry and Circuit Italia and MX motor bike facility on residents of Six Mile Road and Winston Road. Noise impacts on

neighbouring properties have been modelled at resident's dwellings only and not on boundaries, we use our properties for many uses such as beekeeping, entertaining (barbeques around dam sites) bush walking and distressing. Noise would impact on our leisure time.

- Noise modelling has not taken into account the different heights of benches that noise sources would make with different temperature inversions.
- No modelling has taken place for excavators with rock hammers used to break large rocks into smaller rocks (commonly used in all quarries).
- No tolerance has been allowed for inversion layers. Noise modelling indicates that the quarry operations will be reaching their acoustic exceedances on normal operations.
- EIS is not clear on whether production plant will be fully enclosed and also what height are the proposed noise barriers.
- How often is monitoring to take place? And can residents have access to ALL results? We want a monitor at our residents.
- How will Quarry mitigate noise sources from loaders loading rock into trucks?
- All work done on Quarry face including clearing, stripping, drilling should be considered as operational noise not construction noise.
- In the immediate area of the quarry there are several shift workers who will be directly affected by noise generated in the morning period and have sleep deprivation.
- We currently hear the operations of Boral Quarry, at this stage it is non-intrusive to the amenity of the area, due to its distance from homes.

2. DUST

- The dust in the air could adversely affect asthma sufferers, along with blasting residue.
- Reduce tank water quality, as the dust and blast residue will settle on our collection surfaces, affecting our drinking water.
- Dust will settle on our solar panel, reducing their efficiency, they will need to be clean more often, which will take more of our personal time

- We use tank water, this proposal will increase the dust entering our tanks and filters, this again will mean more cleaning required and more frequent filter change, at our cost.
- Increased dust in the air means more dust settling on outside surfaces, such as, outside furniture and flyscreens, which means more frequent cleaning at our cost.
- The new quarry will need to provide to us a paid cleaning service and compensation for extra water used to help reduce the dust on surfaces, especially during dry periods.
- Air quality (Ch7.6) Only one AQ monitoring station committed. How is dust to be mitigated during weekends and holidays periods when dust is blowing onto neighbouring properties onto roofs, solar panels and into drinking water tanks?

3. TRAFFIC

- There will be an extra 170 truck movements per day, plus deliveries, such as, ash, fuels, spare parts, staff, contractors, etc.
- Increased traffic congestion at the intersection at Italia Road and Pacific Highway, due the accumulation of traffic from Boral Quarry, Barleigh Ranch Motorbike track users, MG Car Club, the new Circuit Italia Raceway, school buses and local residents.
- Public safety will be affected, as the number of “near misses” will only increase at the intersection of Italia Rd and Pacific Hwy.
- Cumulative traffic impact not assessed ie local traffic, Boral Quarry, Circuit Italia Raceway and Barleigh Ranch Motorbike track, school buses plus the proposed quarry.
- Currently there can be a 10 – 15 minute wait for local traffic as trucks try to entry the highway.
- The traffic study was carried out during a ‘quiet phase’, for a limited period. If the study was conducted during the holiday period the result would have be dramatically different.
- No upgrade to Italia Road/Pacific Highway intersection, despite medium-high risk allocated to intersection in independent road safety audit. Only offered additional traffic signs and line marking.

If the quarry is approved, then the intersection of Italia Rd and the highway will need to be upgraded, ie the intersection will require a complete redesign, adjusting heights to the approach from Italia Road, to help improve truck movements.

- Currently there is limited visibility for vehicles entering the Pacific highway from Italia Road, from oncoming north bound traffic.
- No real data on potential traffic using Barleigh Ranch Way intersection and Italia Road, when Circuit Italia Raceway, Paint Ball, MX Central and Gardenland, MG car club have traffic departing and arriving at these locations, possibly when two or more of these facilities are using this intersection at the same time.

4. WATER MANAGEMENT

- The proposed development poses a significant threat to the integrity of the catchment of Grahamstown Dam.
- Due to location of quarry within water catchment area, there should be a zero discharge limit applied. Any discharge should be required to be treated on site and tested against the full suite of anolytes within the ANZECC guidelines- need to account for hydrocarbon spills, run-off from workshop, contamination from blasting, sewage pump-out system etc. There is NO water treatment plant proposed for the site.
- Assessment states that water available on site will be greater than demand for Quarry life, hence water management will always be an issue during periods of high rainfall.
- Water Resources (Ch7.8) Groundwater assessment conducted in 2014 notes lack of available stream flow data- is this now available in 2017?
- The property is also subject to illegal tile dumping which are currently pollution the catchment, and has been ongoing for 10 years – still not resolved.

5. MARKET DEMAND

- The Newcastle market is very competitive.

- There are eight existing operating quarries, within this region. Currently these quarries are not working to full capacity, as the market demand has been low for a number of years.
- There is no need for a new Quarry to be established as market demand is being met by other quarries in area which have expanded in size or are awaiting approval. As such they can meet potential increases in demand as they are not running at capacity.
- Boral is not closing in the foreseeable future.

6. OPERATIONS

- Proposed operating hours are Mon – Fri 5am to 10pm, Sat 5am to 4pm
- The existing Boral Quarry operating hours are Mon – Fri 6am to 10pm and Sat 6am to noon, so why should the proposed new quarry have a more competitive edge by starting earlier.
- Currently our home is subject to the effects of the blasts from Boral Quarry. Blasts sometimes rattle our windows and shake the roof rafters. This development wants to double our exposure to this kind of treatment. A person can only take so much of this.
- Request blasting times should be between noon and 4pm, as my husband is a shift worker, this will allow an initial sleep after a night shift.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- Loss of amenity for those of us who seek a quiet rural lifestyle.
- Land valuation will be impacted.
- The removal of 30 hectares of native vegetation can have an adverse impact on local biodiversity. The site supports a range of threatened species and provides habitat for native flora and fauna.
- The proposed development plans on destroying, and completely dismissing the importance of the Wallaroo/Raymond Terrace wildlife corridor. The regional corridor will be unacceptably impacted upon and while it may still perform a role as a corridor

and habitat, this role will be clearly diminished by its reduction in size. Isolating fauna from their potential food source and habitat.

- The noise impacts will also have a damaging effect on wildlife, driving them further into the surrounds, and away from their chosen habitat.
- The increase in the incidence of bushfire should not be disregarded. The bushfire assessment given in the proposal concentrates mainly on the effect of fire on the facility. Fires can spread quickly into adjoining properties, with little or no warning.
- Light pollution, as the quarry wants to operate to 10pm, five days a week – affecting our bee hives and impacting our amenity.
- No Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (Ch7.9) has been carried as this is a major Greenfield site.
- Biodiversity (Ch7.2). An ecologist review the FBA calculations for offsets (the offset ratio seems very LOW- 30 ha developed, however only 58.81 ha secured under bio banking.
- Limited detail of water flows in Seven Mile creek and tributaries and effect on Ecological Communities that rely on water flows.
- Land resources (Ch7.7) No phase 1 assessment has been prepared despite site being used to store discarded waste (tiles) and adjoining composting operations. There is a relationship between the businesses as Castle Quarry products (now Eagleton Rock Syndicate), lodged a DA for the composting business on Garden lands behalf. There is a clear relationship between the two businesses which EIS tries to distance itself.
- No mention of illegal composting activities. Site has been issued with a clean-up notice from EPA, therefore no guarantee of any contamination.

8. PERSONAL IMPACT

- Moved here for the “quiet rural life”, to get away from the “city life”.
- I have worked hard to obtain this home, I have invested everything into it. If the development goes ahead I lose everything. I will not be able to sell my house or afford to purchase a new place.
- To minimize the impact of this development, (ie dust and noise), I will need to close up my home to reduce the dust and noise level.

Therefore I will require double-glazing to reduce the noise impact and ducted air-conditioning to ventilate the home.

- Will also require a paid cleaning service to clean flyscreen and solar panels, due to the increased dust level.

I hope that Department of Planning will take all my concerns into account. This proposed development is causing considerable stress on myself and I am looking forward to seeing this issue ended as soon as possible. Please notify me of the Department's decision with regard to this Development Application.

Yours truly,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.