

18th March 2017

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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) and wish to lodge an objection myself to the proposed Eagleton Hardrock Quarry.

I [REDACTED] wish to now lodge a more formal and comprehensive objection to the proposed Eagleton Hardrock Quarry Development as permitted by Michelle Kirkman. I lodged the original objection previously as per submission due date.

Contamination of our water supply - Our home, as per our neighbors, has no town water connection. We rely on collection of rainwater from our house roof for showering, cooking and our only source of drinking water. With the hillside reduced, this will alter existing air movements, with the strong likelihood of increased contamination settlement on our roof and water tanks. Even if the proposed quarry use sprinklers the high winds we have here will dry it up quickly and send dust and contaminates air borne. The summers here are usually dry and hot and the winds predominantly North Easterly.

When my husband and I purchased our land over 30 years ago in Winston Drive we wanted a cleaner and healthier lifestyle for us and our children. Monitoring of dust is listed in the DA but no details of locations of the monitors are given. Monitoring should be mandatory. We want to continue to breathe clean air!!.

Clean Water not Contaminated My understanding is that the proposed Eagleton Quarry is located within the catchment of Grahamstown Dam. According to council the dam supplies the greater Newcastle region with 75% of its water needs.

There is rainfall run-off from the site of the proposed new quarry towards the Grahamstown Dam. These run-off waters exit mainly via Seven Mile Creek and the Balickera Canal. Seven Mile

Creek is directly connected to Grahamstown Dam via pipes underneath the Pacific Highway. In times of high rainfall events, there is a high potential for rain waters to carry pollutants from the proposed quarry site to Grahamstown Dam.

I am deeply concerned about contamination from run offs from the proposed quarry. We have extreme weather throughout the year and we have witnessed the run off s from the surrounding area of the proposed site. The people of Newcastle would not even be aware of this occurring!

After consultation with our community I believe there should be a zero discharge limit applied. Any discharge should be required to be treated on site.

The proposed quarry's Retention dams should be built to a 500 year ARI storm event as per other existing DAs in the catchment.

Removal of Vegetation The removal of 30 hectares of native vegetation will have an adverse and irreparable impact on local biodiversity. The proposed quarry's site supports an array of natural species (both flora and fauna) which will be removed for the development. Again this is irreversible and will impact local properties. The reduction in breeding habitat and flora diversity will have an impact over much greater an area than the boundary of the development. There appears to be no offset to this removal, and again places additional pressure on the natural ecosystem.

After much consultation with neighbours and the Eagleton Residents Action Group. I request that the proposed development contributes annually to a trust fund that is independently controlled, to ensure adequate funding is available for rehabilitation. The actual rehabilitation costs needs to be announced and factored for increases in the CPI so that the local community is assured that site rehabilitation will be completed to a known standard and the final site presentation known prior to commencement of quarry operations.

Wildlife and Koalas The impacts on the local wildlife are also of concern to our community. There are huge numbers of native wildlife including a Koala population. We have seen koalas on surrounding properties. The Koala corridor is part of the proposed quarry site. The proposed quarry site should not be permitted particularly with Wildlife Corridor passing right through the proposed site. We need to save, protect and preserve our Koalas and dwindling wildlife.

Overall the site is used by koalas as stated in surveys and I request that an extensive survey be conducted over a minimum of twelve months, to fully assess the species on site.

Dangerous Roads My understanding is that there is no plan to upgrade the already highly dangerous intersection of Italia Road and the Pacific Motorway despite the massive increase in heavy truck and machinery numbers that will use this constantly, on top of the trucks already operating from the Boral operation and participants and guests Circuit Italia Raceway, Paint Ball, MX Central motorbikes Gardenland and the MG Car Club.

The development application predicts 170 truck movements per day when the quarry meets full capacity, plus contractors and deliveries. Already currently my husband can wait up to 15 minutes behind trucks and he has seen many near miss accidents and some scary instances.

Public safety should be considered and factored in before accidents occur with people trying to enter the Pacific Highway.

Eagleton Ridge Respite Centre- In our community we are proud to have the Eagleton Ridge Respite Centre who presently employs 23 staff working around the clock 365 days a year. The Centre has been operating for 17 years and has over 3500 clients on its books and this is growing all the time. The Respite Centre is a facility that houses people with a disability and serves as a respite to families who are care for people with high needs.

The noise and dust impact from the proposed development could dramatically affect their clients and staff, forcing this business to withdraw its service. If this was to happen than 25 employees would lose their jobs and this would have a wider impact on the local community, as the majority live in the immediate area. The proposed Eagleton Hardrock Quarry is approximately 1000 meters from the Respite Centre. Please preserve this business that offers and supports our community. Please support our local community and not people who care little and know nothing of how much our community means to us.

Personal Note My husband and I bought this land over 30 years ago and have worked hard investing our sweat, time and money into our home and property in keeping with its bushland and rural surrounds. We wanted a place for our children to grow, family to stay, friends to visit and enjoy. We wanted a healthy lifestyle away from the noise and pollution for our family. We love the peace and tranquility of our rural setting and lifestyle. We love the surrounding bushland and its diverse flora and fauna. We love the peace and quiet. We came here with a plan like so many of our neighbours to be part of a like minded community.

Please NO MORE QUARRIES!! Please respect and preserve this beautiful setting for future generations. Do not allow people who only care about making money and tearing down the environment in the process destroy our beloved homes and chosen lifestyle

I hope that the Department of Planning will take all my concerns and my fellow residents concerns into account. Please notify me of your decision with regard to the Development Application as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,

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