

Geoff Parsons
582 Italia Road
Seaham NSW 2324

28.2.17

Planning Services
Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Attn: Minister for Planning
Re: Opposition to Eagleton Hardrock Quarry Development

Application No: SSD 7332
Location: Lot 2 DP1108702, Barleigh Ranch Way, Eagleton

I am written to express my opposition to this proposed development as a resident of the area which will be impacted by this development.

My objection is based on the increase in traffic movements and traffic control at the intersection of Italia Road and the Pacific Highway, the use of Italia Road to the west of the quarry entrance, the very possible contamination of Grahamstown Dam from run-off from the site, and the loss of the “rural” lifestyle as the area becomes an “industrial estate”.

The development application predicts 170 truck movements per day when the quarry meets full capacity. These are additional to the existing traffic using the Italia Road/Pacific Highway intersection. As a frequent user of this intersection I believe it is already a very dangerous intersection as traffic heading north on the Pacific Highway has very little time to react as they come over the rise before Italia Road when traffic is turning right out of Italia Road.

There is a 100 kph speed limit which starts just before this area but from my observations, very few drivers actually heed this signage.

Being “stuck” behind a truck, or two, from the Boral quarry at this intersection is very frustrating. They have to wait until they can see a large clear opening in the traffic before they feel safe to proceed which can take several minutes, add to this additional trucks of similar or larger capacity and the wait here could become substantial.

Watching slow trucks pull out in front of fast northbound traffic is frightening and I fear for my own safety if an accident was to occur.

Currently, as I understand, Boral quarry has approval to use the western end of Italia Road for up to 10% of their truck movements. This combined with other trucks using the road as a shortcut, residents, recreational vehicles, car and caravans, and family cars are making Italia Road a “busy” road. This proposal indicates the all truck movement will be to and from the Pacific Highway with the only use of the western side of Italia Road for delivery of product to local Seaham residents, not to businesses or any local developments. If this application is approved, some recording/reporting mechanism should be put in place to ensure this stays the situation for the life of the quarry. I would also like to see some of the funds raised by way of the councils’ levee, be used on the maintenance of entire length of Italia Road.

Contamination of Grahamstown drinking water should be a concern to everyone. I am not an expert on drainage or contamination, but I was a resident at the time of the super-storms and was unable to leave the area as Italia Road at Barleigh Ranch Way was covered with water too deep to cross. Storms such as these, which seem to be happening more frequently, would surely test the ability of the proposed quarry’s capacity to contain run-off and thus contamination. I am sure Hunter Water will have some input to this point.

As a final point, I moved to this area 38 years ago seeking the peace and tranquillity of a rural setting and lifestyle. I feel that my rural lifestyle is becoming an industrial estate. I know it sounds like “not in my backyard”, but consider what I already have in my backyard, Boral quarry, motor bike track, hill climb track, car race track, landscape supply business. Traffic is not only week days, but weekends as well. Land values are shrinking as the area becomes less desirable due to its industrial nature. I am seeking to maintain what little “rural” aspect remains in the area in which I decided to invest and to live.

I ask that the Department take my concerns into account when determining the outcome of this application.

Yours truly

Geoff Parsons

