

16th March 2017

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

REFERENCE: 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 would like to express my complete opposition to this proposed development as a resident of the area which will be impacted by this development. I am totally opposed to the application and development of the Eagleton Hardrock Quarry. I have great concerns about the impact it will have on our lifestyle, our health, our community and the natural environment.

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.

NOISE - Should the proposed Eagleton Quarry be approved, there will be Boral Quarry and the proposed Eagleton Hardrock Quarry almost operating next to each?? Necessary NO!

These two quarries would then be working daily to extract gravel via blasting, rock crushing and excavation. My family and I are currently shielded by the natural topography from Boral Quarry operations, but this proposed development will reduce the skyline (eliminate the hill) and remove a significant buffer from Quarry noise. The proposed development involves the reduction in skyline (eliminating the hill) which will be the removal of the natural barrier that the existing hill provides. This will intensify the noise from Boral Quarry and we will be exposed

also, to the noise from proposed Eagleton Hardrock Quarry. We already hear the local Gilson's Quarry in Winston Road, the MX Central motor bike track, so much so that at times that it sounds as if they are in our kitchen. They are all loud enough to be annoying at the front of our property. Take away the skyline and this will intensify and there will be no peacefulness at all any day of the week.

I cannot emphasise enough that once the proposed quarry reduces the skyline, we as with all local residents, will be exposed to much greater levels of noise, not only from the listed quarry operations (blasting, rock crushers, loaders, trucks, earth moving equipment and rock hammers); but also noise from the freeway which is currently blocked by the natural topography. Once this hillside is reduced/removed, this increase in noise will be 24 hours a day!! We will be permanently and irreversibly be affected by NOISE!.

The DA mentions that it intends to monitor dust and particulate matter but does not include any provisions about monitoring noise.

I require that a condition in any approval insists that the noise levels at residences in Six Mile Road, Italia Road and Winston road be monitored by an independent consultant on a continuous basis, the cost to be borne by the operators. If sound levels exceed specified levels, noise reduction practices such as better silencing of diesel engines and improved sound barriers around crushers and screens should be mandatory.

DUST Our home, as per our neighbors, has no town water connection. We rely on collection of rainwater from our development (house roof) for showering and our only source of drinking water. With the hillside reduced/removed, 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 proposed quarry is located in a North East direction from my home and as the summers here are usually dry and hot and the winds predominantly North Easterly.

When my husband and I purchased our home in Winston Drive we wanted a cleaner and healthier lifestyle for us and our family. 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 breathe clean air that is why we left the suburbs!!.

If this proposal goes ahead I will require non chemical: roof cleaning, window cleaning and water tank cleaning. I will also require ducted air conditioning and double – glazed windows borne at the developer's expense. This is our life and if

we cannot enjoy the fundamental reasons of living here to be able to open doors and windows and enjoy the outdoor environment then I require compensation as mentioned above.

WATER CONTAMINATION - The proposed Eagleton Quarry is located within the catchment of Grahamstown Dam. This 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.

We are deeply concerned about contamination from run offs from silt, hydrocarbon spills, blasting and all kind of oils and any other chemicals used.

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.

NATURAL VEGETATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT -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.

SITE REHABILITATION There is much concern in the community about the lack of rehabilitation at mine and quarry sites in the Hunter Valley, with numerous examples of extraction based processes not following through with site rehabilitation. As noted, the reduction/removal of the hillside will permanently affect our noise exposure, not only from quarry operations, but traffic on the freeway. Dust and water contamination will exist long after the quarry operations have ceased, unless a robust and sustainable site rehabilitation has been completed.

I request as a safeguard against this. 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. This money must be paid at the beginning of each year with the first payment being a minimum of 2 years in advance.

PROTECT OUR KOALAS? The Koala in Port Stephens is rapidly becoming a threatened species as the peninsula sees its vegetation removed. There are several threatened species of both flora and fauna that have been observed in this area and further detailed independent investigation is warranted to protect EEC's and trigger species impact studies.

The State Government recognise that the koala's habitats, across the state, are under threat. This development will have a likely significantly impact on the local koala population, which is an unacceptable risk and threats to other vulnerable flora and fauna species are too great. The subject site contains significant numbers of eucalyptus punctate trees. Since 2002, acknowledgment of this tree species as important, it is now commonly

accepted by Port Stephens Council and the CKPOM steering committee and local experts that koalas are known to use both eucalyptus tereticormis and eucalyptus punctate in this area and koalas have been located on the proposed quarry's site and surrounds.

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.

LOCAL COMMUNITY BUSINESS The economic and social benefits put forward in the EIS does not outweigh the benefits that an existing business Eagleton Ridge Respite Centre (E.R.R.C) currently brings to the community. Located on a farm at 100 Six mile Road, the E.R.R.C has been operating for 17 years after opening its doors in 2000. They presently employ 23 staff most work in shifts around the clock 365 days a year. They are currently looking to increase this level of staff.

The E.R.R.C is an accredited provider of services with the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). They also deal with Commonwealth, State and local providers as well as Non Government Organizations (NGO)

The E.R.R.C. 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 then 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 E.R.R.C.

Please think of our community. Eagleton Rock Syndicate Pty Ltd do not care about our community. This is just about money making. The E.R.R.C. goes far beyond just making money they provide a service that is tried and true and benefits many, many people.

TRAFFIC My understanding is that there is no objective to upgrade the already 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.

The development application predicts 170 truck movements per day when the quarry meets full capacity, plus contractors and deliveries. These are additional to the existing traffic using the Italia Road/Pacific Highway intersection. Currently there can be a 10 – 15 minute wait for local traffic as trucks try to enter the highway. This waiting time will definitely increase with the addition of more trucks. My question to you is “Will the trucks start to head west along Italia road?”

There has been no real data on potential traffic using Barleigh Ranch Way intersection and Italia Road, when Circuit Italia Raceway, Paint Ball, Ranch MX (MX Central motorbikes), Gardenland, and MG Car Club, have traffic departing and arriving at these locations, particularly when two or more of these facilities are using this intersection at the same time.

Public safety will be a real concern, as the number of accidents will be increased at the intersection of Italia Road and Pacific Highway.

PERSONAL IMPACT My husband and I bought our home over 10 years ago and have worked hard investing every spare bit of time and money into our home and property in keeping with its surrounds, ready for our retirement into a natural and healthy lifestyle. My family and I desired the peace and tranquillity of a rural

setting and lifestyle. The proposed operating hours of the Eagleton Hardrock Quarry Development are Monday – Friday 5am to 10pm, Saturday 5am to 4pm; this will truly take away our peace and tranquility and impact negatively on our life and our health. Already our health is starting to be seriously affected by the stress of this proposed quarry!

This proposed development with its reduction /removal of the hillside will permanently impact our vistas, and provide a constant increase in noise from their quarry operations, Boral Quarry operations and the MG Car Club, the new Motor racing facility, Circuit Italia and MX Central Motorbike track users. The proposed operations will increase noise and dust and impact upon us and our neighbours.

There are numerous hard rock quarries throughout the lower Hunter with more than adequate capacity to supply the existing demand, and expected future growth. This development will provide financial reward for a few over a short period, but create a permanent reduction in living quality to myself, my family and other families in the area.

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.

Kind regards,

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[REDACTED]

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