

Attn Michelle
Department of Planning
RE : SSD - 7332

I write on behalf of the Williamstown and Surrounds Residents Action Group Inc. in opposition to the proposal of a hard rock quarry at Eagleton.

This proposal is closely linked to the proposal and issues we are currently going through in Williamstown, both inappropriate proposals on many levels with interesting histories of the sites.

Reasons to reject this proposal:

- The property is located within the drinking water catchment. At present Hunter water can't use their alternate water source the Tomago Sand Beds for an indefinite period of time, due to the Williamstown RAAF Base contamination. These sand beds have in the past provided Newcastle with up to 40% of drinking water in times of drought and dry periods. How in good conscience can the Grahamstown Dam water supply be threatened? We need to be preserving and protecting our water sources.
- The quarry will go below the water table; this will need further investigation and what it means for the local catchment area. Given our understanding of water ways and aquifers, we can't rely on just models but rather real life data and peer reviewed studies.
- The area to be quarried is part of a Koala preferred habitat and a corridor for koalas and other species from one bushland area to the other. This is another proposal that will see koalas killed off or moved out of the area. Both the State Government and the local council have put in plans to protect the local koalas by way of commitments at the end of last year. Instead of using more money to protect the species after their habitat is gone, how about we protect it now.
- The local residents already have one quarry to contend with, what will the compounding affects be with putting in another rock quarry so close to an existing one. By removing the area in question and blasting it, it will open up the residents to noise not just from this quarry by the Boral one as well. Noise is a major issue, not just of the quarry but of the trucks and blasting.
- The dust from the quarry will cause a concern to the local residents and it too, will compound if and when both quarries are operating. The residents will be put at risk of new respiratory diseases or exacerbation of current conditions.
- After speaking with residents, the social impacts are already affecting them, they are worried about their future and their future enjoyment of, not only their homes but also their properties as a whole.
- The increase in the amount of trucks is a concern for all of the community that use Italia Road but also the Pacific Highway. These trucks will be turning across the northbound traffic onto the pacific highway to go south. If there is a back log, how will local residents get out onto the freeway? In times of peak traffic or holiday season on the freeway, how is it safe to have truck and dogs crossed twos lanes of a freeway on a regular basis, day in and day out.
- The quarry is proposed to have a lifespan of 30 years; this is equivalent to most mortgages, what options this gives residents if it is affecting their health and wellbeing. It is a daunting situation if you were going to be living there for a long time, especially if you wanted to sell your property to retire and the values drops. These are all social impacts that have to be addresses for the residents.
- There is a huge concern with the overall impact of the quarry and operation on the local area and the environment. It is a concern that communities should have to put up with

these horrendous proposals and put both their health and enjoyment of their homes at risk. We need to be protecting our environment for future generations.

Thank you for taking the time to read through the submission.

Kind Regards

Rhianna Gorfine on Behalf of WSRAG Inc.

Public Officer 0413 613 802