

Submission objecting to the Eagleton Rock Syndicate Quarry.

Jennifer Sandstrom, 26 Six Mile Road, Eagleton NSW 2324

5th March, 2017.

Department of Planning and Environment
Attn: Director – Resource Assessments
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

Just in relation to the proposed quarry at SSD7332 at Barleigh Ranch Way, Eagleton and my submission **OBJECTING** this proposal. For the following reasons and the close proximity to our home.

The issues and my submission apposing this proposal.

1. Traffic in the intersection at Italia Road and Pacific Highway.

a. Current situation of traffic.

- a.Events at the MX Central have major events like Australian, State, Newcastle and local club events creating high traffic volumes.
- b.Ringwood Park Motor Complex has hill climb events creating more traffic.
- c.Boral Quarries have over 600 truck movements per day¹.
- d.The local traffic of cars, buses and delivery vehicles using this road already have to contend with the impact of heavy truck movements crossing the highway at a standstill.
- e.Independent safety audit on Italia Road, being medium high risks recommended upgrade to existing intersection.

b. The concerns with increasing traffic in this intersection.

- a.The amount of trucks & dogs is estimated to be 10 trucks per hour x 10 hours in a working day = 100 truck movements² per day x 240 days = 24,000 per year.
However we are being told - 170 a day x 265 days = 45,050 which is enormous.
- b.Then there are other movements such as staff vehicles, maintenance and delivery trucks increasing the traffic at this intersection (as per email.)
- c.There would also be increases to other local roads such as Seaham and surrounding towns (as per email).
- d.These local roads have a number of major black spots and would create even more impact on these roads.

¹ Retrieved on 27/02/2017 from <http://www.theherald.com.au/story/2295720/trucking-quake-shakes-up-town/> by Belinda James-Davies, 20 May, 2014 at 10:30.

² Stated in email from Jonathon Barry from Kleinfelder on 28/02/2017.

The issues and my concerns against this proposal (continued...).

c. The future concerns for traffic with this development.

- a. Major sporting events at the Barleigh Ranch Motorbike track for the Australian Dirt Bike Championships drew large crowd's influencing this intersection.
- b. Current Boral Quarry operations and trucks already flowing in and out of the area onto Pacific Highway create issues for local residences.
- c. Residents will be forced to use other roads due to long queues and delays which are currently black spots.
- d. Traffic incident will result in the closures of the Pacific Highway, as did on the 26 November 2016 with closure of the northbound lanes³, which has a huge impact for traffic and this would only compound if during school holidays.
- e. Safety impact on current users and travellers on Pacific Highway.
- f. Other inferior roads being used for trucks, which are poorly maintained and very narrow.
- g. The effect on the road quality due to the amount of trucks using the road.

2. Water Management of the Proposed Quarry and future run off.

a. Current situation of water management.

- a. The proposed development is within the Catchment of Grahamstown Dam;
 - a) from the Seaham Weir (upstream movement of tidal saltwater)
 - b) Balickera Canal (transfer water from Williams River to the dam)⁴.
- b. The Grahamstown dam is one of the third largest water supply source and the hunters largest drinking water supply.
- c. Gardenland's high risk operations within the catchment area, has already had impacts on the quality of the dam with the Hunter Water Board seeking closure and with EPA⁵ issuing clean-up notices⁶ – yet Port Stephens Council still does nothing.
- d. Concerns with the amount of storage of water and the high rainfall in this area with large amounts of run off during storms and flooding of Seven Mile Creek⁷.
- e. Large amounts of land clearing affecting water quality and erosion control.

³ Retrieved on 02/03/2017 from <http://www.snarl.com.au/incidents/related/250830> report.

⁴ Retrieved on 02/03/2017 from <https://www.hunterwater.com.au/Water-and-Sewer/Water-Supply/Dams-and-Catchments/Grahamstown-Dam.aspx>

⁵ Retrieved on 02/03/2017 from <http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/legislation/Actsummaries.htm#poeo>

⁶ Retrieved on 02/03/2017 from <http://www.theherald.com.au/story/2961944/pollution-concern-over-gardenlands-run-off/> by Donna Page and Michael McGowan, Newcastle Herald on 22/03/2015.

⁷ See rainfall records for 379 Italia Road, Eagleton – provide by landowner.

b. Concerns with this development for the water catchment.

- a. The development has a direct influence on the quality of the catchment of Grahamstown Dam.
- b. The close proximity to Grahamstown Dam – Hunter Water Corporation and the new Hunter Water regulation 2015⁸.
- c. It falls under the State Environmental Planning Policy – legislation that is statutory and legally binding
- d. This development, extractive industry and has a direct impact (Page 10 of the report) – Grahamstown Dam Hydrological catchment area.
- e. Lack of future monitoring of this business in the catchment area, once it is up and running concerns of the following I feel will not be monitored enough;
 - a) Vegetation management / clearing not to be excessive.
 - b) Erosion and sediment control for the extractive business.
 - c) Stormwater management for high rainfall areas into catchment.
 - d) Waste management of the extractive business.
 - e) Management of hazardous materials, activities or goods – storage on site.

c. The future concerns for Water catchment in the Grahamstown Dam area.

- a. This area is the sixth largest area and it is expected to increase with developments⁹ on the rise with heavy reliance on this water catchment area supplies Newcastle and the Lower Hunter – contamination would have repercussions on water supplies.
- b. With heavy rainfall, there will be silt travelling into Balickera Canal with potential for oils, chemicals and pollutants from the quarry.
- c. Once contaminated will it end up like the Williamtown Water Contamination with Class actions against a company that will quickly go into bankruptcy and start another company – Buildev and Tinkler as per other precedence's.
- d. **Therefore, a bond or trust fund should be established to fund contamination, clean-ups and future rehabilitation for the land.**
- e. The exposure to contaminants in the water of Seven Mile Creek for public training of dirt bikes.

⁸ Retrieved on 27/02/2017 from <https://www.hunterwater.com.au/Building-and-Development/Land-and-Property-Development/Development-in-a-Drinking-Water-Catchment.aspx>

⁹ Retrieved on 03/03/2017 from <http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/~media/Files/DPE/Plans-and-policies/hunter-regional-plan-2036-2016-10-18.ashx>

The noise concerns from the Proposed Quarry Development.

a. Current situation on noise proposed quarry development.

- I. The Boral Quarry blasts can be felt like a shotgun with movement of our house and we have experienced two cracked windows which is unacceptable.
- II. At present there is a buffer reducing some noise from the events and the quarries in the area and lack of buffers for noise.
- III. The current noise levels are high enough, at times we require intervention from authorities to reduce the impacts on our lifestyles.
- IV. Sudden loud explosions echoing through the valley, is unbearable for myself as I suffer from P.T.S.D.
- V. A report by independent consultants, should be made on the collective noise in the area, not just one enterprise and not just at the back fence.
- VI. Impact on stock and animals on property from truck noise¹⁰

b. Concerns with this development for the noise.

- I. The increase in blasting from another closer and larger quarry will have a direct impact on our lifestyle operating 10 hours a day???
- II. The noise from other machinery needs to be taken into account not just extractive operations.
- III. The impact of another extractive business on the hearing and health of children and adults in the area¹¹.
- IV. As a lot of the families have people that work shift work, it will greatly impact on the sleep, concentration, mental health and physical health of residents in the area¹².
- V. Impact on future business enterprises on this property and resale value.

c. The future concerns with this develop for the Noise.

- I. Impact on lifestyle quality such as;
 - i. Sleep during the day for shift work.
 - ii. Fatigue driving long distances after insufficient sleep from quarry activities.
 - iii. The mental health of such an impact on sleep.
 - iv. The physical health from the noise and operations of a 10 hour day.
- II. Resale value and impact on future business enterprises, as currently finishing degree for renewing business activities from 2006 (after having children).
- III. Lack of noise buffers to reduce impacts on current residents and future residential development of Kings Hill in Six Mile Road, Eagleton¹³.

¹⁰ Retrieved on 05/03/2017 from Newcastle Herald, by Joanne McCarthy, "Quarry Rocks Village" 04/03/2017.

¹¹ Retrieved on 03/03/2017 from <http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/resources/noise/09265cng.pdf>

¹² Retrieved on 03/03/2017 from <http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/resources/noise/09265cng.pdf>

¹³ Retrieved on 03/03/2017 from <http://www.portstephens.nsw.gov.au/grow/development-controls-plans-and-strategies/planning-strategies> Port Stephens Planning Strategy 2011.

The dust from the Quarry Development.

a. Current situation on dust.

- I. The dust levels that cover our house, outside items, pool, washing and the roof which then supplies our tanks with water for washing, cleaning, bathing and drinking.
- II. The solar panels for our electricity is covered in dust.
- III. Animal rugs are covered in dust and coats are always covered in dust.
- IV. Windows and the house inside is consistently covered in dust regardless of your cleaning method.
- V. Prior to moving to the property, I never experienced asthma and now I do, along with my children.

b. Concerns with this development for the dust.

- I. Further impact on levels of dust in the house, outside items, pool, washing and roof and water tanks.
- II. Further dust on solar panels reducing output of electricity.
- III. Animals becoming more sick and unable to build business in the horse industry¹⁴.
- IV. The ill health and welfare of my children and family.
- V. Quality of my water supply, our dam supply water for cropping and gardening being covered in dust.
- VI. The air quality and a monitoring station to check for levels.

c. The future concerns with this development for the dust.

- I. The increased dust levels and impact on our children and adults in the area.
 - i. Provide covered outdoor sales for reducing dust.
- II. The need for more cleaning services at the expense of the quarry.
 - a. Tanks need cleaning more often resulting in more expenses.
 - b. Windows need cleaning more often more labour, cleaning products and water.
 - c. More water for cloths and indoor drying required resulting in higher electricity costs.
 - d. More cleaning and maintenance for pools resulting in higher electricity, cleaning products and filters.
 - e. Would require a household filters on all taps to reduce the pollutants.
 - f. Solar panel cleaning by licensed electrician.
 - g. Regular health checks for all residence and animals in the area.
- I. Outdoor shelters for animals to reduce dust build up on coats and rugs.
- II. Reduce all contributing factors in the extractive business such as crushers, trucks, loaders, excavators, graders, drillers, explosives and storage areas by having consistent water damping carter trucks to keep the dust down.
- III. Blasting and processing of 600,000 tonnes and the amount of operating hours to obtain this would be extensive – till 10:00pm.
 - a. This HAS caused damage to our homes – movement, cracks and windows.

¹⁴ Retrieved on 03/03/2017 from <http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw/drakon-south-baird-government-finally-sees-sense-on-coal-mine-project-as-top-horse-farms-protected/news-story/1ed7202ea04e6ba5c1afd90cc0f62fb6>

The Proposed Operating times for the Quarry Development.

a. Current situation on operating a business hours.

- I. For rural property owners were are required to operate from;
 - i. 7.00 am to 8.00 pm for power tools Monday to Friday.
 - ii. 8.00 am to 8.00 pm for power tools on weekends or public holidays¹⁵.
- II. Proposal for Quarry Development wish to operate;
 - i. 5.00 am to 10.00 pm Monday to Friday.
 - ii. 5.00 am to 4.00pm on Saturday (no Sunday or public holiday operations).
- III. Current Boral Operations are;
 - i. 6.00 am to 10.00 pm Monday to Friday.
 - ii. 6.00 am to 12.00 noon on Saturday (no Sunday or public holiday operations).
- IV. EPA requirements¹⁶ are that blasting only happen between
 - i. 9.00 am to 5.00 pm Monday to Friday.
 - ii. 9.00 am to 5.00 pm Saturday (no Sunday or public holiday operations).
 - iii. Blasting once per day.

b. Concerns with this development for the operating for business hours.

- I. The operating hours of 7.00 am to 8.00 pm Monday to Friday is sufficient for any business and with 9.00 am to 12.00 pm on Saturdays.
- II. Blasting charges should only be once a day in favourable conditions – afternoons.
- III. Husband works various hours and requires sleep during the day.

c. The future concerns with this development for the operating business hours.

- I. Issues with noise monitoring for residences and guidelines for reporting breaches, mediation and action plans by authorities to fix issues.
- II. Interruptions to quality of life for a young family, impact on wildlife and stock in the area and increased fatigue for husband travelling to work due to lack of sleep.
- III. Increased Truck movements in the area not being monitored
 - i. They should be with closed circuit TV to reduce the “unlawful development approval” of unmonitored increases in truck movements – which is renowned in mining and quarry industries¹⁷.

¹⁵ Retrieved on 03/03/2017 from <http://www.portstephens.nsw.gov.au/live/resident-services/environmental-health-and-compliance/noise-control>

¹⁶ Retrieved on 03/03/2017 from <http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/resources/noise/ANZECBlasting.pdf>

¹⁷ Retrieved on 05/03/2017 from <http://www.theherald.com.au/story/3739111/public-hearing-into-mackas-sand-quarry-truck-plan/> by Joanne McCarthy on 19/02/2016 and “Quarry Rocks Villages”, Joanne McCarthy 04/03/2017

The Proposal of the removal of 30 prime hectares of native fauna and flora.

a. Current situation on native fauna and flora¹⁸.

- i. The area is a native corridor, which provides home to a range of biodiversity of native fauna and flora.
- ii. In Australia we are clearing more than we can rehabilitate.
- iii. Clearing increases erosion and sedimentation of waterways and reduces water quality – Grahamstown Dam catchment area.
- iv. Clearing removes habitats leading to the direct loss of millions of native animals and plants every year and creates an extinction debt.
- v. Vulnerable plant and animal species in this area of Dry Sclerophyll Forest of the Hunter and MacCleay Rivers that needs independent environmental study to ensure the Integrity of the report.

b. Concerns with this development for clearing of the area.

- i. Inferior studies completed to show incorrect assessment of the area.
- ii. The lack of funding that will be available for rehabilitation of the area once the quarry has finished.
- iii. The current area consists of rock and clay, which is vulnerable to clearing of mass areas.
- iv. Clearing of clay and rock is a softer soil than sandstone and is quickly eroded resulting in runoff of contaminants into the waterway of Grahamstown Dam.
- v. Reduction of vulnerable fauna and flora in the area such as;
 1. Echidnas.
 2. Koalas.
 3. Ospreys.
 4. Brush-tail Phascogale.
 5. Slaty Red Gum.
 6. Giant Dragonfly.

c. The future concerns with this development clearing and maintaining land.

- i. Once clearing starts it won't be long before the whole of the mountain biodiversity collapses and vulnerable species are lost for ever.
- ii. The wildlife corridor will be closed and 1000's of fauna species will starve from the removal of the clearing reducing the wonderful diverse wildlife that visit our farms on a daily schedule.

¹⁸ Retrieved on 03/03/2017 from <http://www.bushheritage.org.au/about/about-us/our-challenge/land-clearing>

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Therefore, I strongly oppose this development as I can see it developing into an industry that is not contained, monitored or even regulated once established. We have fought for other developments in the area over the time and I would like to recommend to Department of Planning and Environment that there be a cap on how many times a development can be proposed and denied.

Fighting proposals comes at great expense, stress and time spent away from spending with families. Residences seek legal advice on matters relating to proposals while large enterprises continue to battle with neighbours and businesses in the area.

In the past consultant companies on behalf of development applicants approach the community with positivity to answer any questions, concerns or issues to only walk away. When the applicants are at the closing of the submissions, it becomes evident to waste residences time for submitting their objections.

I feel the lack of time in relation to the submissions is another ploy to reduce the amount of submissions to this proposal. I'm objecting to this proposal as it will create huge ramifications to our lifestyle and future business enterprises.

Should you wish to contact myself I can be contacted anytime on 0407240047.

Yours sincerely

J.A. Sandstrom.

Jennifer A. Sandstrom (Adv.Dip.App.Sci(H.M.))