

26th February, 2017

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

Mick & Deb Charlton
16 Italia Road
BALICKERA NSW 2324

Attention: Minister for Planning

Reference: Opposing the Eagleton Hard Rock Quarry Development

Application No.: SSD 7332

Location: Lot 2 DP1108702, Barleigh Ranch Way, Eagleton

Applicant: Eagleton Rock Syndicate Pty Ltd

We request that our names and contact details be removed prior to any publishing of this letter.

To whom it may concern,

As local residents, we are writing to express our current concerns with and lodge our objection to the above mentioned development application.

We have owned our property for 18 years and during this time we have experienced periods of increased activity from the local Boral quarry and also the added trucks from the landscaping business when it moved to our area. As a result of these periods of increased activity, we have been able to identify a number of concerns that will be exacerbated further by this proposed additional development.

These concerns (given the time frame to look over all the documentation) include but are not limited to:

Hours of Operation, Noise Issues & Traffic

Whilst our property may not be significantly impacted by noise from the on-site quarry operation activities, we are concerned about the noise impact of the proposed blastings, together with the increased noise generated from the increased heavy vehicle activity on Italia Road.

Proposed operating hours of 5am to 10pm Monday to Friday and 7am to 4pm Saturdays would be very intrusive on our current lifestyle. We would like to know what times the heavy vehicles would start and finish travelling along Italia Road in relation to these operating hours and how this would be policed.

The application states that “The interaction of the proposed quarry traffic, estimated at 10 incoming and 10 outgoing trucks per hour, with the existing traffic on Italia Road is expected to be seamless. This number of trucks is very small on a short (500 metre) section of Italia Road; integration with a regular traffic stream of up to 65 vehicles per hour in each direction will involve large gaps and a relatively low density traffic stream.”

It concerns us as to how long these extra heavy vehicles would take to clear the Italia Road intersection given the already constant flow of vehicles as there will be an extra 170 truck movements per day, not including deliveries to the site. Will access to our residence be effected?

Noise from heavy vehicles including the use of compression brakes can be intrusive, especially early in the morning and at night. Noise can interfere with speech, disturb sleep or interrupt work. Prolonged exposure to loud noise can also result in increased heart rate, anxiety, irritability, hearing loss and other health effects. Whilst we understand impacts of noise depend on the noise level and its characteristics, you must take into account that the way in which noise is perceived by the person affected can vary.

The safety of children in relation to the local school bus route as there are already so many vehicle movements along this road which we have seen first hand cause issues when trying to get children on and off the school bus.

In the 18 years we have lived here we have witnessed many accidents, plenty more than what were disclosed in the proposal for a limited period. There have been many instances where police and ambulance have attended and in one case also the Westpac Rescue Helicopter. Why were these accidents not taken into account?

We have had to endure lengthy dealings with police and insurance companies in relation to property damage caused directly by these accidents. We have been required to take time off work to be on site for the attendance of an assessor each time and again for repair work to be carried out. The addition of another 170 truck movements per day would increase the risk of accidents significantly.

The current intersection seems not be as safe as it possibly should be for heavy vehicles. Would there not be a better option for another access road directly from the proposed quarry out onto the Pacific Highway where it would be on a flat section of road with better visibility and also make it much easier for a fully loaded heavy vehicle to take off from a standstill and cross two lanes of traffic travelling in excess of 100km/hr.

Italia Road & Pacific Highway Intersection

We are also interested to find out what exactly is meant by the removal of trees from the road reserve on Italia Road as we found this was not fully explained. Nor was the advisement of street lights at the Italia Road Intersection.

Air & Water Quality

As people in our household are asthma and hay-fever sufferers we are concerned with how much dust this quarry and the cartage trucks will create and how this will effect our current lifestyle. Dust particles land on clothes hanging on the clothes lines, roofs and gutters which then enter our water storage tanks, outdoor furniture, settle on our motor vehicles and enter into our swimming pool and can also enter into our house. Our current household water filtration system requires replacement of filtration cartridges on a regular basis, more regularly than recommended by the manufacturer, added truck movements and the operation of the quarry itself would increase these issues. We see the same issues with the filtration system for our pool.

Will the heavy vehicles be required to clean down after loading and their loads be fully covered with tarps prior to exiting the quarry?

Property Value

Effects of the value of our property needs to be explored along with loss of our current lifestyle, our quality of life and how it will change if this proposal was to go ahead.

Groundwater Management

Water at the proposed quarry also raises many concerns for us. We can see from proposed plans that there will be holding dams progressively installed on the quarry site, if these were to reach capacity and overflow what is the management plan that would be put in place for this? Page 62 of the Traffic Impact Assessment does not show nor explain in detail all of the current creeks or water

flow plans. There is a creek that runs through our property which leads to a holding dam near the Pacific Highway, is this the only water course for run off or will there be another one constructed further back South along the Pacific Highway so that water from the quarry could pass under the Pacific Highway and towards Grahamstown Dam without travelling through our property as we cannot see this creek coping with any extra amounts of water. What would be the plan in the event of a major storm like that we saw in April 2015?

Clearing of vegetation will in turn will create more run off in this area, how will this water be controlled and managed and will the adding in of new roads, bridges and holding dams effect where the water will run and what route will it take from the quarry to make its way into the dam?

We are disappointed in the communication thus far in relation to this proposal as the only correspondence we have received was a visit from two female representatives who asked questions and advised we would be contacted in relation to this discussion, however we were not and a letter from Department of Planning and Environment. We have since found out from another resident in the area that there was some sort of information afternoon held at the Sir Francis Drake Motor Inn in relation to this development and that residents received notification of this so they were given the opportunity to attend, however we were not, therefore we see this as a missed opportunity for ourselves and it also leaves us wondering as to why we were not notified like the other residents seeing as our home is the only house along the effected section of Italia Road.

We appreciate the opportunity you have given us as a neighbouring resident of this proposal to respond and would appreciate any response from you to be sent to us directly.