

28th February, 2017

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Planning Services
Department of Planning and Environment
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ATTN: Minister for Planning

REF: 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 strongly object to the above proposed development of another Hardrock Quarry, with great concern over the intersection of Italia Road and the Pacific Highway.

My main concerns are:

- The extra 170 heavy truck movements per day, plus deliveries, such as, ash, fuels, spare parts, staff, contractors, etc. - Adding this to the already heavily used intersection of Italia Road and Pacific Highway will severely increase the risks at a very hazardous intersection, which I use every day.
- Currently there is limited visibility for vehicles entering the Pacific highway from Italia Road, from oncoming north bound traffic. Even though heading north the highway speed drops to 100km before the intersection very few vehicles drop their speed, particularly in holiday periods. Making it very difficult to cross two lanes of highway in a car let alone a semi trailer truck.
- In addition to that I have grave concerns about the entry for the quarry via Barleigh Ranch Way being so close to the Pacific Highway. On many occasions I have been brought to a sudden stop after exiting the highway on to Italia Road when after coming around the first bend I have approached a very slow moving landscape truck entering that very road. With additional large trucks using this entry for the proposed quarry there could potentially be a line up of many vehicles reaching out to and onto the Pacific Highway. This would greatly impede the visibility for any traffic turning left or right out of Italia Road onto the Pacific Highway, making it extremely dangerous.

- The increased degradation of an already extremely stressed road surface, which will add significantly to the wear and tear on resident's vehicles. Detioration is particularly evident where multiple trucks are turning.
- Then there is the addition of, Barleigh Ranch Motorbike track users, MG Car Club, the new Circuit Italia Raceway, school buses and an increase of local residents as the completion of the sealing of East Seaham Road through to Clarence Town will increase traffic flow from that area through to the highway.
- Public safety will be affected, as the number of "near misses" will hugely increase at the intersection of Italia Road and Pacific Highway.
- Currently there can be a 10 – 15 minute wait for local traffic as trucks try to enter the highway. This will increase dramatically.
- The traffic study was carried out during a 'quiet phase', for a limited period. If the study was conducted during the extensive school holiday period the result would have been dramatically different.
- No upgrade to Italia Road/Pacific Highway intersection, despite medium-high risk allocated to intersection in independent road safety audit. Only offered additional traffic signs and line marking. If the quarry is approved, then the intersection of Italia Rd and the highway will need to be upgraded, ie the intersection will require a complete redesign, adjusting heights to the approach from Italia Road, to help improve truck movements.
- No real data on potential traffic using Barleigh Ranch Way intersection and Italia Road, when Circuit Italia Raceway, Paint Ball, MX Central and Gardenland, MG car club have traffic departing and arriving at these locations, possibly when two or more of these facilities are using this intersection at the same time.
- As a shiftworker I am using this road at all different times of the day and night, and bought in this area for the very purpose of having a peaceful rural setting where disturbance would be limited. I believe the addition of another quarry in the area will definitely impact on this peaceful existence.

In addition to traffic concerns I am also extremely worried about Water Management:

- Another quarry in the area will significantly increase the dust contamination to our tank water. This is an increase cost to residence

of tank cleaning, roof cleaning, solar panel cleaning, and window cleaning. This I believe should be compensated to all residence.

- The significant threat to the integrity of the Grahamstown Dam Catchment area due to run off waters from the quarry site. Which will affect not just local residents, but all whose water comes from Grahamstown Dam. (the majority of people will be unaware of the possible risks)
- In two very recent occasions when Italia Road flooded, April super storm 2015 and January 2016, large quantities of water via the canal and via Seven Mile Creek (where waters are piped underneath the Pacific Highway) flowed into the Dam. This would be exacerbated with another quarry in the area, with very high potential for contamination.

I also believe that the proposed quarry will be a significant threat to a number of successful businesses in the area.

- Particularly the Eagleton Ridge Retreat, which is situated right on the doorstep of the proposed quarry. This is a well-established successful business which employees many local people, but more importantly provides respite services for people with disabilities. The impact the quarry will have on this business is massive. Why should another business be able to move into the area to the detriment of an already established successful business that doesn't impact on the environment, or the neighbouring properties?

Even though we reside quite some distance from the proposed quarry, I believe that we will still be impacted by noise, dust and reduced property values. Like our neighbours we bought our property for the quite rural lifestyle, will the Eagleton Rock Syndicate compensate us for all that we will lose?

The proposed development is causing considerable stress on my family and myself. I hope the Department of Planning will take into account my concerns. I would appreciate notification of the outcome of this development application.

Yours sincerely

Craig Redman