

I oppose the development application for a sand quarry at Sutton Forest for the following reasons:-

1. The water aquifer in the area will be reduced;
2. The sandstone acts as a natural water filter keeping the ground water pure. Removal of the sandstone will cause a significant reduction in the natural filtration system;
3. Dust from the quarry will pollute Long Swamp and its aquifer;
4. Surface water from the quarry site and contaminated ground water from the quarry pit will significantly contaminate the water way of Long Swamp;
5. Dust from the quarry will blow onto resident's homes causing potential negative health outcomes and have a negative impact on flora and fauna;
6. Noise from blasting and night lighting will have a catastrophic impact on fauna for a range of several kilometres;
7. Land clearing will significantly narrow the Great Western Wildlife Corridor thereby reducing native flora which is essential for a healthy native fauna population;
8. The Shrine of Our Lady of Mercy – Penrose Park shares the boundary of the development site. Thousands of visitors to the multiple shrines and church building will have their peaceful visit disrupted by the quarrying activities;
9. The development will significantly increase the number of heavy vehicles entering and exiting the Hume Highway at Sutton Forest. This will inevitably result in more traffic accidents, road deaths and injuries;
10. The access road, although constructed by the developer, will require maintenance for decades, to be funded by the residents of Wingecarribee Shire with no benefit to the residents;
11. The character of the Southern Highlands of NSW is well known for its “clean, green environment”. This development will negatively impact the regions tourist industry.