

Planning Services Planning Services
Department of Planning and Environment Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39 GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001 SYDNEY NSW 2001
Attention: Director – Resource Assessments & Minister for Planning

Dear Anthony Roberts, MP

Please accept this as my interim submission to oppose the **Sutton Forest Sand ‘Quarry’ (MINE) Project (SSD 6334)**.

My family has owned a property that will be significantly affected by the proposed **Sand Mine** for more than 40 years. I spent my childhood growing up on this property and continue to spend my time with my family and friends here. We have held weddings, funerals, birthdays and holidays at this property. A property that continues to contribute to the local community and has contributed produce to the wider Sydney market.

The EIS has only been on exhibition for one month, providing little to no time to prepare a fully informed submission, notify members of the community who will be directly affected and also notify the wider Sydney community. I would also like to raise serious concern regarding the lack of consultation with those directly affected. The documents provided are incredibly detailed and will require more time to study the proposal. Therefore, I formally request this be considered as my interim submission only.

This interim submission raises serious concern and opposition due to the following factors, primarily the first two items:

- **Public health concerns;**
- **Significant impact on the surrounding properties;**
- Threats to water quality and the broader impact of this threat to Sydney’s water supply; and
- Environmental impact.

I note that the EIS has identified the SEPP 33 Hazardous and Offensive Development Application Guidelines to be a requisite for consideration. I also note that the EIS fails to acknowledge the serious public health issues surrounding **DUST, NOISE** and **LIGHT**. There is only mention of the effect of chemical hazards. This is an enormous oversight.

DUST

It is well known that silica dust poses a significant health risk to those frequently exposed. This has been identified in similar scenarios to the development of this mine through the blasting and grinding of sandstone. This will create a large amount of silica dust, which is known to cause cancer, among other significant health issues. I would like it acknowledged that sandstone grinding is the primary activity being undertaken at this proposed sand mine. Neighbouring properties and farmland will be directly affected by this, impacting the health of the community, as well as employees of the sand mine. Silica dust will also travel by wind to the wider community. I note that the Green Valley Sand Quarry will increase this risk due to how geographically close these two sites will be. Cancer Council Australia has also highlighted the significant risk silica dust poses - <https://www.cancer.org.au/preventing->

[cancer/workplace-cancer/silica-dust.html](http://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/media/publications/health-and-safety/hazardous-chemicals/crystalline-silica-technical-fact-sheet). SafeWork NSW also highlights this risk - <http://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/media/publications/health-and-safety/hazardous-chemicals/crystalline-silica-technical-fact-sheet>. Please take the time to carefully consider the health risk you are posing on our community and your own population.

NOISE

A reminder of that noise pollution is a public health issue. Sandstone crushing and rock blasting will occur day and night, disturbing neighbouring properties. Trucking will also increase disturbance in the area, not only affecting the neighbouring properties, but also wildlife. A reminder by Work Cover Queensland's statement regarding the effects of excessive noise - <https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/injury-prevention-safety/hazardous-exposures/noise/effects-of-excessive-noise>.

Excessive noise stress causes: raised blood pressure, accelerate heart rates, stress, hypertension (leading to strokes and heart attacks), reduced white blood cell counts (increasing infections) and gastric ulcers.

Neighbouring residents will be in position to move as a result, reducing the community's productivity and active farm-land. Farming is an essential industry in NSW and Australia. These properties have been established for decades, and recently purchased and built, without knowledge that this would ever be considered in this area. **THIS CAUSES SIGNIFICANT LEVELS OF STRESS.**

LIGHT

Did you know light is a pollutant? Neighbouring properties will be significantly affected by night lighting during the ongoing sand blasting. There is no respite offered to these properties and its residents - <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2627884/>

AUSTRALIA'S GOVERNMENT BODIES AND NON-PROFITS SUPPORTED BY STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS HIGHLIGHT THESE PUBLIC HEALTH RISKS.

With respect to the limited time you have provided to prepare a submission, limited consultation with the community and wider Sydney population, and the failure to grant an extension, please accept this as my interim submission. I intend to address these concerns in greater detail.

Regards,

Maev Kerri Fitzpatrick, BSc, BA, MPH
Personal Submission

Senior Advocacy & Policy Officer, Royal Australasian College of Physicians
Ambassador, Surfrider Foundation
Fundraising Ambassador, Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders)