

To whom it may concern,

I am making a submission in response to the proposed Bobs Farm Sand Mine on the site of the Fig and Olive Farm on Nelson Bay Rd (AMMOS)

I have been a local resident of Bobs Farm from birth to age 21, and have come back to my community in support of the campaign to STOP the proposed Bobs Farm Sand Mine. Environmental decision making is very important to me. My university studies in Environmental Engineering were initially supported by a Port Stephens Mayoral scholarship created to support local students passionate about local environmental issues, and I feel a civil responsibility to speak out against this atrocious project in our community.

I am back in my community now informed and ready to address the social and environmental injustices this proposed mine WILL create if it is approved.

I have a number of concerns regarding the proposed project and advise that the development application is rejected.

Here is a brief overview of the social and environmental implications I have currently identified:

- Clearing of old growth forest habitat
- Disruption of ancient dunes: ecologically significant site and indigenous heritage area
- **200 trucks a day** entering on Nelson Bay Rd exiting on Marsh Rd within a designated school zone
- **Noise and dust**, additional particulate matter from diesel fumes and silica dust (a hazardous substance which can cause silicosis)
- **Road safety concerns** with additional trucks on roads and close to a school
- **Ground water** level will be lowered threatening agriculture in a farming community
- **Tank water** will be potentially contaminated

In summary of my response to this proposal, I make a number of requests:

- Current development on the site is stopped and the development proposal rejected.
- A 60 day exhibition period is allowed for thorough community review, as if mining operations are approved there will be long lasting and immediate effects on the local community.
- Funding for a peer review of the EIS submitted with the proposal is supplied by the developer due to concerns of a conflict of interests with local MP's (Bruce Mackenzie, local MP owns and operates another sand mine locally - Mackas Sand and has personal interest in the industry) DA approval processes may be swayed by personal economic interests)

If this project were to proceed, it will have lasting devastating effects on our local farming community.

To mitigate the impacts of the project if it were approved I request:

- Ongoing (monthly for a period of 10 years) silica dust monitoring, ground water and hydrology reports of salinity and aquifer levels on site and neighbouring farms within 20km radius, at the cost of the mining operator, by a professional independent scientific organisation.
- Reparations to local community groups and residents including the Bobs Farm Primary School and in the form of monetary donations to cover costs of dust masks for children, mass hazard signage around the school zone and additional occupational work health and safety equipment for staff and students.
- Mining operators covering the costs of additional pollution tests for local farmers, including air, water and soil contamination tests.

I urge you to take these grave concerns into consideration and keep in mind principles of intergenerational sustainability in reviewing the short term gains for long term pain this project will inflict on our community locally and far and wide.



Corruption scandal links to Bruce Mackenzie:

<https://www.theherald.com.au/story/5633496/mackas-back-former-mayor-says-he-will-contest-next-election/>

<http://www.theherald.com.au/story/1186906/ballsy-bruce-the-controversial-mayor-of-port-stephens/>

Mackas Sand: <http://www.mackassand.com.au/>

<http://www.theherald.com.au/story/1813521/port-mayors-sand-mine-approved/>