

NSW Planning and Environment

Re: SSD-6395

From: Brian Tehan


RE: Bobs Farm Sand Mining Proposal

It's hard to imagine how such a project could even get to this stage of planning. The proposal is ridiculous to be quite frank.

- 1) The proposed sand mine would destroy valuable farming land and bush is an area that is proposing World Heritage status. It's also a short distance from one of the most popular and pristine parts of coastal NSW, right on the main and only road into the coastal area.
- 2) The proposed mine proposes up to 180 truck movements a day on the only road in and out of the Tomaree Peninsula, an area that has a large amount of tourist traffic and has suffered from a number of fires recently. Not only that, but the trucks would have to drive many kilometres up to the roundabouts for Taylors Beach and Anna Bay to turn towards Newcastle, creating even more congestion and traffic hazards, especially in case of fire, where it could prevent people escaping fires.
- 3) The sand mine will destroy valuable wildlife habitat in the best remaining coastal Koala community in NSW, where the Koalas are now very endangered because of encroaching development, increased traffic and increased dog attacks.
- 4) The sand mine proposes to mine 15 metres below the water level, endangering the water aquifer, which is the source of residents water all along the peninsula, as well as the local farmers' water supply for irrigation and other uses.
- 5) The mine will be a blight on one of NSW most popular natural coastal destinations, which is increasingly popular with international tourists. This could kill off a multi million dollar improvement in the tourist industry.
- 6) The mine is unsustainable as it is on old bush covered dunes that will not be replenished, in contrast to the coastal dune sand mines.

Any single one of the above should be enough to kill off this crazy project. I don't think that the NSW government going into an election could possibly afford the outrage that this would spark, from local residents and the people of NSW, who know and love Port Stephens.

Regards,
Brian Tehan