



Port Stephens Greens

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The Director, Resource Assessments,
Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39 Sydney NSW 2001

Objection: Bobs Farm Quarry - Sand Mine Project - State Significant Development Application No SSD 6395

Port Stephens Greens submit that this project is not acceptable on multiple grounds and should not be approved.

An 'industrial' extractive operation in such a highly visible location is in our view incompatible with the rural landscape character of the Bobs Farm area and the wider 'bush meets the sea' character of the Tomaree peninsula which gives it its exceptionally high tourism value. The area supports a major and growing tourist industry, which contributes significantly to the Port Stephens, State and National economies.

The project would adversely affect the amenity of Bobs Farm residents and school students (noise and dust are of particular concern to them), of the thousands of daily commuters and of the hundreds of thousands of visitors who pass the site. It would have far-reaching social and economic consequences.

The sand mine would significantly increase heavy vehicle movements on a road system which has a number of unsuitable single carriageway sections and which is already overloaded in some areas at peak times. The impact of this proposal on heavy vehicle traffic cannot be considered in isolation from other existing and proposed sand extraction projects relying on the same inadequate road network.

The waters of Port Stephens support a significant and diverse aquaculture industry. Mining operations so close to Tilligerry Creek pose potential threats to the well-established aquaculture industry and more general interference with the marine environment, the values of which are recognised in the Great Lakes-Port Stephens Marine Park.

The project would involve a significant loss of valuable fauna habitat and other environmental damage, which would continue in perpetuity after the end of mining operations due to the large residual lake.

We note that several public authorities have already made submissions questioning some of the applicant's assertions, and raising some significant objections – in particular Hunter Water is opposed both the depth of excavation and the proposed remnant lake.

This project application should be refused.

Nigel Waters
Secretary, Port Stephens Greens

P.S. We have no objection to this submission being published in full, without any redaction.