

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

**Application No SSD 6395**  
**3631 Nelson Bay Road, Bobs Farm**  
**Bobs Farm Sand Mine Project**

31<sup>st</sup> January 2019

I am writing this submission in opposition to the proposed Sand Mine at Bobs Farm as I am concerned about various issues with this development application.

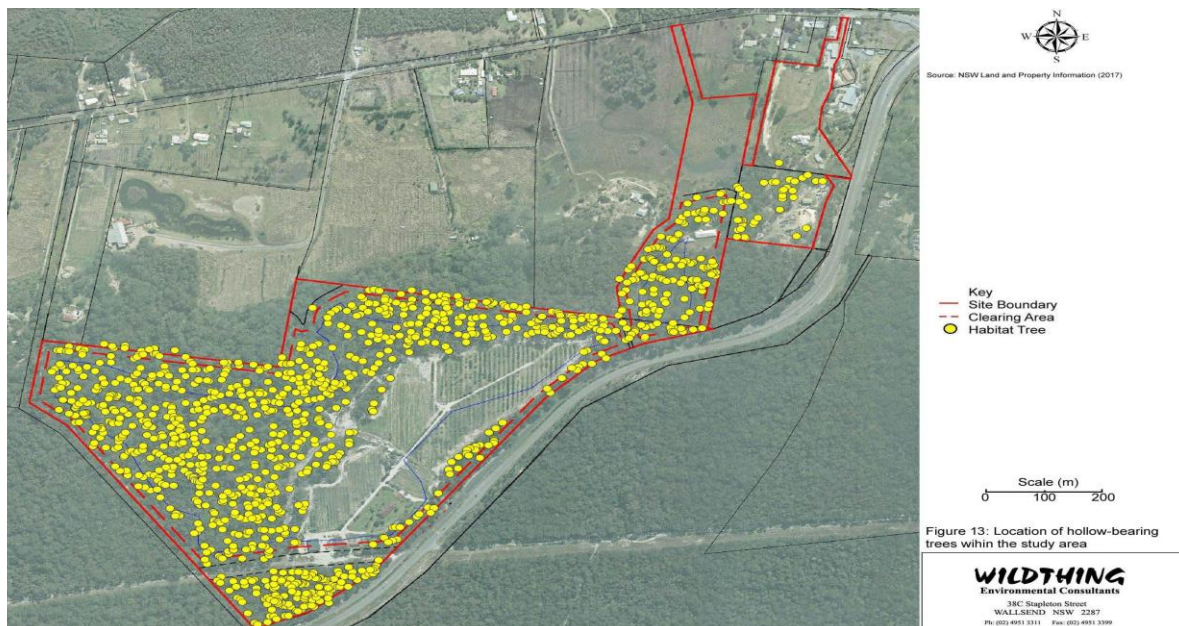
Everyone on both the Tomaree and Tilligerry peninsulas will be affected by this proposal.

The Port Stephens local environment contains rare flora and fauna species that has already become fragmented and fragile due to continual development and deforestation of vital habitat. I support the protection and maintenance of habitat NOT the destruction of habitat in Port Stephens.

The proposal will result in the removal of approximately 25.90 hectares of key habitat and the removal of 877 out of 1217 identified hollow bearing trees within the site. Many of these trees are considered to be significant due to their large size, the variety and the number of hollows they contain – hollows being available for roosting or nesting avifauna species, arboreal mammals, reptiles and tree roosting bat species.

The map indicating these trees, (see below), is most confronting. *Wildthing's* assessment concludes ... *The loss of hollow-bearing trees is a Key Threatening Process under Schedule 3 of the TSC Act 1995. The removal of 877 hollow-bearing trees would be a significant loss of this resource in the local area.*

*P64 Wildthing Biodiversity Assessment Report* 1217 habitat trees indicated by



The proximity to Nelson Bay Road of many trees to be removed is of great concern for how close excavation will be to a busy road; air quality and visibility given certain weather conditions will affect everyone travelling the road and impact on their safety. The entrance to Nelson Bay which is a popular holiday destination will be through a mine site, which will detract and destroy not enhance the beauty of our area.

If this proposed sand mine development at Bob's Farm is approved it will be yet another example of habitat and environment vs profit.

The proposed sand mine if approved will add approximately 180 additional trucks per day to a road/roads that are already carrying a significant number of heavy vehicles each day. As a regular commuter to Newcastle I am witnessing bad (and extremely dangerous) driving practises on nearly a daily basis; some examples are;

- Excessive speed in an 80km zone – Nelson Bay Road between Port Stephens Drive roundabout and Marsh Road – this particular low loader continued along Nelson Bay Road to Cabbage Tree Road Williamtown where some of the carriage way is only single lane – the driver tailgated a rather small car until the dual lanes at the Meadowie Road roundabout – rather intimidating and dangerous!
- I have also witnessed a semi trailer overtaking a vehicle/changing lanes just before the roundabout intersection of Nelson Bay Road and Richardson Road which necessitated vehicles in the other lane braking sharply to avoid a collision – this roundabout had upgrades last year to improve safety issues as there is a bus stop in this spot - this is exactly where this incident took place and there were people waiting at the bus stop on this particular day.
- Trucks also tend to enter Nelson Bay Road at Salt Ash with little or any regard for vehicles already travelling on Nelson Bay Road which causes drivers to brake and slow down from 80km/hour to 55km/hour until the truck increases it's speed.

It concerns me greatly how the additional trucks will enter Nelson Bay Road from Marsh Road;

- if they are to enter by turning right onto Nelson Bay Road, the sheer size of the vehicle will more than likely necessitate it using both lanes of Nelson Bay Road as they negotiate the turn safely which will impact greatly on traffic travelling from Nelson Bay in the direction of Newcastle.
- if they are to turn left onto Nelson Bay Road and proceed to the Port Stephens Drive roundabout where they will effectively do a u turn to then travel back along Nelson Bay Road, this also will make this roundabout even more dangerous than what it already is. Noise levels will also impact greatly on residents living along this stretch of Nelson Bay Road.
- if they are to travel along Marsh Road and enter Nelson Bay Road by turning right at Salt Ash; the road is not capable of carrying heavy vehicles and a right hand turn at this intersection would be quite dangerous for all vehicles.

Both the current Coalition Government and also the Labour Party if elected at the next state election are promising to fully duplicate Nelson Bay Road which is desperately needed (& not just because of holiday seasons) for current vehicle numbers – when this is completed, it won't necessarily make Nelson Bay Road any safer – especially if this sand mine is approved.

The increase in associated health and air quality issues for not only residents living in close proximity to the proposed sand mine, but for travellers along Nelson Bay Road and for all residents of Port Stephens who will be affected depending on which way the wind is blowing on any particular day.

Bobs Farm Public School will be severely impacted due to it's proximity to the proposed mine. Air quality, noise pollution from both the operation of the mine and the additional movement of heavy vehicles passing the school; the estimation of 180 trucks per day could mean up to 360 actual movements each day. Parents will take the sand mine into account when considering the suitability of the school for their child's education. The school has an extremely good reputation, however the possibility of dwindling numbers of children attending may eventually force the school to be closed by the Department of Education. Will that be **another** property sold by the NSW Government at a ridiculous sum as it will be deemed surplus to the needs of the Department of Education.

Irukandji Shark and Ray Encounters will be affected due to their proximity, and a proposed eco-cabin project on adjoining property which has now been placed on hold – the owner has already spent over \$500,000 on a road upgrade. He does not want to invest more funds because as he has stated “who would want to visit/stay at an eco retreat next to a sand mine?”. There are also two lifestyle resort that have commenced development on Nelson Bay Road close to the proposed site; Sunrise and The Boardwalk. Sunrise in particular will be affected as it situated on Nelson Bay Road by air quality, noise pollution from the mine as well as the increased vehicle activity. Residents of both developments will be affected by the increased vehicle activity when they attempt to enter Nelson Bay Road safely. The developers may not be able to sell sufficient leases to complete and operate the resorts and these developments have already destroyed large areas of key habitat of our local flora and fauna.

I believe that this development is **not** in the public interest and has generated widespread condemnation in the Bobs Farm and wider Port Stephens community.

The extraction from below the water table does not conform with ‘best practice’ guidelines – what is the point of having guidelines if they are not adhered to?

The majority of Australian citizens have just celebrated Australia Day where our National Anthem was sung ... it's about time that developers, politicians and those that hold the power in making these decisions actually took note of the words that are sung

***“Our land abounds in nature’s gifts***

***Of beauty rich and rare” ...***

I believe as Australians we have a duty to protect what ‘rich and rare gifts of beauty’ remain for future generations and cease the continual plundering of these gifts to benefit only a few - developers. If the current trend continues there will be no such gifts remaining ... our unique flora and fauna will become extinct and the words of our National Anthem will become a poignant reminder of what we once had but allowed to be destroyed.

I ask that this development proposal be refused

Margaret Manning