

Bobs farm sand mine submission

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Bobs Farm
N.S.W 2316

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT GPO BOX 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Sir or Madam:

Bobs Farm Sand Mine Project (SSD 6395)

I write in connection with the above planning application. I have examined the EIS and I know the site well as my property is very close to proposal. I wish to object strongly to the development.

Bobs Farm is a beautiful area where development proposals should be considered very carefully. Proposals such as this would ruin the character of the community. A significant amount of inconsistencies and inadequacies were noted throughout the Environmental Impact Statement and Biodiversity Assessment for the proposed development. And Port Stephens council in their submission also supports this. In my opinion the development is of poor design and does not take into account the very likely irreversible consequences that the development will bring to the community. The development will completely destroy the character and quality of Bobs Farm and the wider Tomaree Peninsula area, and the way it functions as a farming and highly visited tourist area.

The proposed siting of the development is particularly ill considered. Building the proposal here would diminish the striking view into the Port Stephens tourist area, being the only road into the Peninsula. This can only have adverse effects to the tourist economy that is heavily relied upon for the area as a whole. People come to our beautiful area to see whales, dolphins, beautiful beaches and a range of activities that showcase our wonderful environment. Not to see a large open cut mining operation. If there is a case for more jobs created for the area, surely a case could be made that a larger economic hit will be taken if the proposal goes ahead in the tourism and farming sectors.

Furthermore there are many other issues that in my opinion would warrant a complete refusal of the proposal.

Inconsistencies and inadequacies with the environmental impact statement in relation to points 1 through 9 of the Port Stephens Council submission.

The traffic route onto Marsh Road going meters past the 100 plus year old public school would mean noise and safety issues for the school children, teachers and parents that utilise the school daily. It seems as if no thought has been given to the 200 trucks per day congesting the already extremely busy Nelson Bay Road especially at peak tourist times of the year. Which to the delight of our local community is getting longer every year. This could turn people away from the area and have a major impact on the local tourist industry and jobs.

There are a range of water issues that in my opinion have not been assessed thoroughly. Considering the known interaction with acid sulphate soils will take place, an assessment to the potential impact of these soils including potential impacts to surrounding land users must be done. There are many people in the area that will have catastrophic consequences to their livelihoods if the water cannot be used to grow the many agricultural products produced in the area.

It should also be said that by dropping the water table means the local farmers and land owners possibly losing water to their properties, meaning loss of production on the land.

The natural flow of the water from out of the sand dunes to Tilligerry Creek could slow down or stop. And because losing all that head pressure flowing from down the hill, the salt water from the creek may well push back on high tides into the properties facing Marsh Road, causing a salinization effect on the land. Making it impossible to grow products or run livestock. These are very serious issues that need to be not taken lightly. People's lives and livelihoods are on the line.

There are a range of air quality issues that may have very serious impacts on the health of the residents, school children and wider community.

The very real possibility of silicosis is a health issue that will put the community in unnecessary danger. Whether it is from inhaling the airborne particulate matter or the contamination of the community's drinking water. We are all on tank water. When the silica dust falls on our roofs it will inevitably end up in our drinking water. And I ask you a simple question. Would you be willing to expose yourself or your children even to the possibility of that risk?

There is also the increase of diesel particulates from trucks and heavy machinery. Both these risks are known causes of cancer and should not be increased and exposed to schoolchildren or to the wider community.

The fact that the company plan to leave a large area of the mine not rehabilitated and turn it into a solar operation or water activities area, shows just how little respect for the environment and the wild life of the area they have. It is the oldest part of an ancient sand dune that once gone can never be replaced and is lost for all generations to come. 13 sand mines are already in the area, and a line must be drawn on this one. There are too many lives and livelihoods at stake.

At no point have I been contacted by the company to hear my concerns, or to tell me how they intend to work with the community. And as I am one of the closest properties to the proposal and are one of the potentially greatest effected lots. This shows the lack of concern for the community and environment now, and paints a very bad picture of how the company moving forward would conduct its business operations in the area.

I am also concerned about the noise and vibration to my property as we are one of the closest properties to the proposal.

I am also concerned about subsidence after the dredging activities near my property and others in the area.

I have also great concern for the devaluation of our property. I have had expert real estate appraisals done on our property and there could be a very high loss of value if the proposal is approved in any form. I have attached a letter PRD real estate to show the figures of a possible \$120,000 loss in a best-case scenario. This as I'm sure you can appreciate will have huge financial stress on us and our neighbours. Not to mention relationship, family and mental stress that comes with it.

In conclusion I believe this is a terrible proposal. It has in my opinion a negative impact on the local tourism and farming economy. It will put peoples livelihoods on the line. Does not take into account the threatened flora and fauna it will put in danger. It will put the community in a higher risk bracket for health issues. It creates unnecessary traffic congestion and hazards to the local community and school. And will have a detrimental effect on the price of land in the area, causing massive financial stress and hardship to people. Please consider the environment, economy and people this will affect. Sometimes things are just immoral and not in the best interest of the community, and this is such a time.

Thank you for your time.

Geoffrey Hickey Bonnie Novak