

My name is Patricia Faulkner. I am a Registered Nurse, married, and have 4 children and have lived at Bobs Farm for approx.. 32yrs.

I am writing this submission to **STRONGLY OBJECT** to the proposed Bobs Farm Sand Mine Project, proposed by Ammos Resource Management Pty Ltd.

We moved here from Anna Bay to enjoy the quieter life and felt it would be a wonderful place to bring up our children. We have a 'hobby farm' where we have had a variety of animals such as horses, cows, goats, pigs, poultry, and a large vegetable garden that has provided us and the extended family with fresh produce over the years. These opportunities have been a positive experience for all of us, particularly the children, and now our grandchildren.

All of our children attended Bobs Farm School, a lovely, small country school in a rural setting. The school community is close-knit, environmentally conscious, and has encouraged pupils to participate in many programs and ventures. It has been terrific for our kids.

The Bobs Farm Community itself is amazing. Over the 32yrs we have lived here age has been no barrier. Everyone has the ability to interact with people of all ages, which is refreshing and reflects the country community lifestyle and values.

During our years here we have observed gradual changes in our community. There have been additions such as the Shark and Ray Centre, the Go-Kart track, Port Stephens Winery and Murrays Brewery, Wonganella Winery, Kookaburra Farm-stay Cottages, The Blueberry Farm, Avocado Farm, and several market gardens. All of these have been positive additions to the local community, bringing tourists to the area and servicing locals with venues, produce and jobs. All of these enterprises are in close proximity to the proposed sand Mine Project, and ALL will be adversely affected.

Having given an overview of our community, I wish to re-state my **STRONG OBJECTION** to this sand mine proposal. It is definitely inappropriate for this area, not fitting in with the current activities of the community. This area is the 'Gateway' to Port Stephens and a project such as this proposal will, if approved, be a blight in the eye of visiting tourists (and traveling locals alike) as they enter area. Tourism is the lifeblood of the Port Stephens shire and should be valued highly, and any proposal potentially affecting tourism to our area should be treated with great skepticism. There is only ONE road in and out of this area – Nelson Bay Road.

Listed below are some more specific concerns I have;

- We live on Marsh Road approx.. 100m from where the heavy trucks are proposed to exit the mine site, into a School zone.
- Our property shares 2 boundaries with the Sand Mine property, to the west and the south, approx. one third of a kilometer of boundary.
- Health concerns; silica dust (I suffer from asthma, as do most of my immediate family), breathing it in and ingesting it in our drinking water (tank water) from fallout from the mine itself, and the mine traffic stirring up dust.
- Water; we rely on tank water and spearpoint water for ALL our daily water usage, and cannot afford to have either contaminated by silica, salt, dust, diesel fallout. Mining below the water table will undoubtedly affect our spearpoint water quality and maybe our ability to access it.
- Trucks; diesel fumes and particulate fallout, spillage from truck fuel tanks on the road, potential for spills contaminating the land and surface water, and the groundwater once

dredging commences in phase 3 of the mine. Heavy vehicles also vibrate and shake our house as they pass our boundary to the east and we can plainly see them for 100 metres of their travel past our back yard (they also look into our place as they drive past as the roadway has been built up to between 4 to 6 feet higher than our land).

- Noise; 180plus trucks and trailers, fully laden, make a lot of noise and vibration. I am a shift-worker and often need to sleep through parts of the day. This will not be possible with that sort of traffic six days a week.
- Roads; the increase in traffic waiting to turn onto Nelson Bay Road from Marsh Road will increase dramatically. Also, in bushfire season and when there are accidents on the sandhills section of Nelson Bay Road, Marsh Road is used as an alternate route. That will make Marsh Road like a parking lot at times.
- Safety; parents and children attending Bobs Farm School, residents at a group-home for intellectually handicapped people (directly across the road from the school), motorists coming in and going out of Marsh Road, my kids and grandkids visiting me, are all at increased risk with large numbers of heavy trucks using the intersection of Marsh Road and Nelson Bay Road.
- Property values; If we ever wanted to sell our place, its value is severely diminished by the presence of a sand mine in close proximity.
- Habitat destruction; there are known endangered animal and plant species at risk from this development proposal. The proposed 'rehabilitation' of the site is farcical. A salt water dam will support very little of the endemic wildlife and plant life of the area.

If, by some unfortunate circumstance, the proposal is approved, it MUST be monitored by independent bodies chosen not by Ammos Resource Mgt, but someone such as the Community Consultative Group or such.

Measures must be taken to ensure the noise, dust, and visual impact of the mine and its traffic do not affect neighbours, and us in particular.

If we find we can no longer inhabit our place due to the impact of the mine, Ammos Resource Mgt Pty Ltd must offer us agreed market value (pre-mine value) and facilitate relocation to an equivalent agreed location.

Finally, we have worked hard to create the place we call home. We were planning on some extensive renovations and home improvements for the near future, but these plans have been put on hold since the first attempt by Ammos Resource Mgt to develop this sand mine. If we were to spend our life's savings on these improvements only to find we could no longer live comfortable here because of the sand mine, we would be devastated.

Please do not approve this Sand Mine Project. If you feel you have no choice but to approve it, it must be dramatically changed to take into account all the concerns I have raised.

Thank you.