

31<sup>st</sup> January 2019

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

**Attention:** Melissa Anderson via email:  
[Melissa.Anderson@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Melissa.Anderson@planning.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Sir/Madam

**Application No SSD 6395 - Bobs Farm Quarry - Bobs Farm Sand Mine Project**

I wish to object to the Bobs Farm Quarry/Sand Mine Project on the basis that the proposed development does not satisfy the objectives of ecologically sustainable development. Not only will the mine be environmentally destructive within its boundaries, it will add to the overall habit fragmentation and by the introduction of any new factor, the artificial lake, will upset the environmental balance.

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared by AMMOS Management Pty Ltd dated November 2018 undermines its own justification for the project by revealing the extent of environmental damage which will result from the removal of 750, tonnes of sand a year from above and below the water table in an area of old growth forest on ancient sand dunes.

Any assessment of the public interest in the project going ahead **must address the public interest** which is not the case with what is proposed. It seems that only the proponents will benefit from this trade off. The public, fauna, flora and environment seem not to have been taken into consideration at all. I also believe that creating of an artificial lake is inappropriate because of the risk of destabilising the sand dune system and enabling contamination of the water table. Excavation creates a risk of exposure and oxidisation of acidic sulphate soils with acidic run-off into the water table disrupting biodiversity. I state the risk of contamination outweighs any benefit of sand extraction **and more importantly puts local residents and school children at the nearby Bobs Farm School at risk.**

How is this proposed 'lake' to benefit the public? The creation of an artificial lake which may become contaminated due to acidic run-off is unacceptable. Here in Port Stephens shire we are surrounded by unpolluted blue water, rivers and beautiful beaches and do not need an environmental disaster being created in its centre. Also the potential health hazards to the community and eco-system cannot and should not be justified.

I therefore request that the Department of Planning take a critical approach to the claims made by the proponent and refuse this application.

I am also deeply concerned on the impact of people's health, especially the children at Bob's Farm Public School. The sand that is mined is a very fine silicon type sand and when the fine particles are breathed in they sit at the base of the lung and have the potential to cause silicosis. Once a person has silicosis there is no cure. Bob's Farm School would have to close. The people living there would be forced to move. I think you should look into all of our concerns regarding yet another sand mine.

Yours faithfully Karen Jones

Comment [k1]: