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NSW Department of Planning & Environment

Re: Objection to Karuah South Quarry – SSD 17-8795

Dear Sirs,

I wish to raise some objections to the proposed Karuah South Quarry. The timing of applicants' Community Information Session a few weeks before Christmas 2018, reeks of a disdain for the environment and the community.

My overall reaction is one of disgust and amazement. Climate Change is a fact. It is happening now. The Karuah Valley has been suffering drought conditions. Farmers and landowners are struggling to cope with the loss of livestock and vegetation.

Why is it that individuals like ourselves are more interested in saving our natural environment than Government Departments: **the proposed quarry is a quarry with no "Condition of Consent"**.

Many of my concerns are to do with the lack of foresight and planning not only of the upgrading of the Pacific Highway but also the lack of consideration and integrity of all involved in the EIS report

The EIS is a White Man's interpretation. It seems disingenuous to ignore the Aboriginal significance of the land.

A number of significant Aboriginal cultural and spiritual sites within or adjacent to the park include middens, burial sites and traditional campsites. Aboriginal people's association with the sea and land in the area dates back thousands of years and local people still gather food in the traditional way.ⁱ

Dozens of trees on the designated site are hundreds of years old. The ecosystem around them sustains a variety of habitats which would have been recognised and revered by our First Nation people.

If the mine is given the go-ahead:

Green Mining Technologies should be implemented

Dust suppression. Wet Earth Fog Cannons or high-volume sprinklers. But where is the water going to come from? Where will run off go? The Karuah South Quarry will be situated within close proximity to the Yalimbah Creek/Karuah Catchment area with water eventually flowing into Port Stephens.

Crusher Plant Covered. The existing dust mitigation efforts are unsuccessful, with dust clouds rising above the quarry area dispersing some kilometres along the Karuah

Valley. The crusher plant should be housed within an adequate well-ventilated shed, with due consideration given to the health of the workers and nearby residents.

Noise Suppression measures should be taken to control the volume of noise emanating from the blasting and crusher operations. South Karuah Quarry is seeking operating hours from 5am to 6pm Monday to Friday; Saturday 5am to 1pm. Living conditions for nearby residents are becoming untenable.

The effect on wildlife does not seem to have been taken into account.

Unless more stringent oversight and fining systems are implemented, companies are able to ride roughshod over the concerns of the community.

Tourism: The Karuah Valley and Port Stephens Marine Park, are promoted as tourist destinations. The surrounding natural environment of the National Parks and State Recreation Areas encompass many Australian species which are on the endangered species list. Koala habitat is to be decimated. Thousands of visitors a year attend the local Karuah Oyster and Timber Festival, the Karuah Bluegrass Music Festival. The Karuah RSL attracts locals and tourists.

Boating, fishing, dolphin and bird watching are popular because of the *diverse marine life [which] includes many dolphin, turtle, fish, invertebrate, seabird and seaweed species, and threatened species such as the Gould's petrel, little tern, grey nurse shark, black rockcod and green turtle.*ⁱⁱ

Impact of Extra Traffic: *Quarry products would be despatched by road using the existing road network.* The local roads are inadequate for the extra truck movements. Residents will be impacted by noise, and the dangerous driving conditions. The existing exits to and from the Pacific Highway will be inadequate to cope with extra tonnage.

I implore the DPI to seriously consider the consequences if this proposal goes ahead.

Yours faithfully,

Susan Filson

ⁱ www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/marine-protected-areas/marine-parks/port-stephens-marine-park

ⁱⁱ *ibid*