

Department of Planning & Environment
GPO BOX 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Monday
20th May 2019

Dear Sirs,

RE: Objection to 'Karuah South Quarry' – SSD 17-8795

I wish to lodge my objections to the planned 'extension of the gravel quarry' in South Karuah, citing the following reasons:

Having recently read an article in my local newspaper 'The Examiner' it is abundantly clear to me the environmental catastrophe that will inevitably unfold.

a) Vast swathes of habitat will be cleared, as stated in the said newspaper article. This will cause further pressure on both the local flora and fauna already under threat to overdevelopment and man-made pressures. Pristine bushland will be removed from almost the entire 22ha property, destroying habitat for wildlife including koalas, quolls and phascogale. Offsets such as species and ecosystem credits will never compensate for the loss of natural bushland habitat, particularly for koalas, experiencing diminishing populations in NSW.

While the proponents claim to have 'taken all this into consideration' and aim to 'minimise the impact to the local environment' I would like to add that it has been demonstrated in other so called 'eco-friendly' developments that such promises, as they are, will inevitably be cast aside in the 'greater need' for profit for both the company and their beneficiaries.

B) The inevitable run off of waste water into the river system will have a devastating impact on the sensitive eco-systems of our waterways. The flow on effect (excuse the pun) will not only affect the local tourism industry in Port Stephens - but also cause local oyster farmers long term ecological and social devastation/financial hardship.

If approved, this DA will set a precedent for other quarries and mines in equally sensitive areas to follow suit.

My second objection regarding this proposed 'extension of the gravel quarry' in south Karuah relates to the towns people themselves - and the beautiful surrounds that they currently enjoy. The economic benefit's (should locals be employed on site) etc, will be only short term - as compared to the damage/negative social impact (for example, increased number of large haulage trucks passing through town) along with the noise and dust impacts from operations proposed (5.00am to 6.00pm Monday to Friday and 5.00am to 1.00pm Saturdays, with maintenance 24 hours a day in both instances) This is totally unacceptable and will also set a precedent for other mines It will also be a long term (nightmare) legacy that the locals will have to live with.

Having lived in Karuah myself, along with my elderly parent, (we) can both appreciate the objections of the local community, whom no doubt would prefer equal say in the future of the township of Karuah - and the effects of this 'development' will have, long term on not only the environment, but also socially and even the very health impact of the people, living with the impact of this potential environmental catastrophe that will inevitably unfold should this proposal go ahead.

Yours faithfully

Monica Jut

M.J.Jut