

Attn. Anthony Barnes

re: Karuah South Quarry - DA SSD-8795. Objection

Introduction: The Soldiers Point Community Group Inc (SPCG) was initially formed to protect the shores of the Port Stephens Great Lakes Marine Park from unsustainable urban development. Situated at Soldiers Point on the eastern shores of Port Stephens, our township is directly across the Port from the Karuah River.

SPCG is extremely concerned about the proposal for the Karuah South quarry seeking full creek discharge of sediment laden water into Yalimbah Creek. Yalimbah Creek flows into the Karuah River and into the Port Stephens Great Lakes Marine Park.

Any pollution of the creek flowing into the Karuah River will affect water quality in the Marine Park.

We are particularly concerned about the affect upon the iconic Port Stephens mangroves and sea grasses, such important breeding grounds for fish.

4.2 NSW DPI POLICY AND GUIDELINES NSW Department of Primary Industries: Policy and Guidelines for fish habitat conservation and management Update 2013. NSW DPI assesses activity and development proposals with consideration for the 'sensitivity' of the affected fish habitat. In this context, 'sensitivity' is defined by the importance of the habitat to the survival of fish (noting that 'fish' under the FM Act includes all aquatic invertebrates) and its robustness (ability to withstand disturbance).

4.3 SEPP 62 Sustainable Aquaculture State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) 62 requires the referral to NSW DPI of any proposal that might impact on water quality in an oyster growing area. Oysters are filter feeding bivalves that rely on clean water to maintain health and resistance to disease. The oyster industry has suffered large losses over the past years as a result of diseases, which is often associated with poor water quality. As such, any works within an oyster growing area must ensure that they do not result in negative impacts on this industry.

In an attempt to protect the waters of the Port Stephens Great Lakes Marine Park, SPCG have spent countless years advocating the principles of Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) Our concern is that run-off from urban development has the potential to contaminate the pristine waters of the rivers and estuaries flowing into the Marine Park.

We are totally opposed to any attempt to dispose of dirty water from any development site entering the rivers and creeks of Port Stephens. Offsets such as species and ecosystem credits cannot compensate once the rivers and estuaries become contaminated.

Given the enormous environmental impacts of this development, the Karuah South quarry proposal is considered to be contrary to the principles of Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD)

The [Protection of the Environment Administration Act 1991 \(NSW\)](#) defines the principles of ESD:

The precautionary principle

If there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation. Public and private decisions should be guided by careful evaluation to avoid serious or irreversible damage to the environment wherever practicable, and an assessment of the risk-weighted consequences of various options.

Inter-generational equity

The present generation should ensure that the health, diversity and productivity of the environment are maintained or enhanced for the benefit of future generations,

Conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity

Conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity should be a fundamental consideration in environmental planning and decision-making processes.

ESD is also defined in the [*Protection of the Environment Administration Act 1991\(NSW\)*](#) and the [*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 \(Cth\)*](#), and is referred to in many other environmental laws.

ESD requires the effective integration of economic, environmental, social and equity considerations in decision-making processes. ESD aims to provide for the needs of present generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

The Karuah South Quarry fails to meet the principles of ESD and therefore should be rejected.

Please acknowledge this submission.

Yours sincerely,
Jean Armstrong
President: Soldiers Point Community Group Inc.

02 49 820849