

NSW Department of Planning & Environment

GPO Box 39

Sydney NSW 2001

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Dear Sir,

I wish to object to the Application for a new gravel quarry known as The Karuah South Quarry located at Lot 11 DP 1024564, a State Significant Development (S.D.D.) – as outlined in the Environmental Impact Statement (E.I.S.) 17_8795. And the Specialist Consultant Studies Compendium 1 & 2

The basis for my objection is as follows

1. **Noise Pollution:** The proposed quarry is located adjacent to the two existing Hunter Quarries and will add an additional crushing plant to the immediate area. The proposal includes an uncovered crushing plant. There have been noise pollution issues associated with the existing uncovered Hunter Quarries operation leading to penalties being applied by NSW Dept. Planning and Environment October 2018 and an additional crusher will add to the existing noise. The crusher plant should be covered with noise abatement material. The EIS should take the combined effect of all operations in the area into account. We
2. **Dust:** the area currently suffers dust pollution especially after blasting from the existing two Hunter crushing plants. The existing crushers are not covered, and the addition of a third crusher will increase the existing unacceptable dust pollution. We constantly see the dust while driving up and down the Branch Lane. No independent dust monitoring is in place and pollution is seriously affecting local residents, causing reports of illness, and nose bleeds. The dust evaluation should take into consideration all operations in the area. As the extraction continues a large void will emerge as a cutting through the existing hill causing changes in the wind conditions around the site and potentially exacerbating the dust spread from the site. The applicant should be made to seal The Branch Lane up to at least the end of the property.
3. **Visual Pollution:** The proposed quarry application envisages removal of a large section of the virgin hill scape leaving a scar on the landscape. The proposed quarry will destroy many old growth trees and the EIS contains no remediation plan to repair damage once the quarrying operation has ceased. From our property we are now starting to see the effect of the existing quarry from our place, with the removal of trees from the skyline. The existing quarry is an eyesore. When entering our beautiful Mid Coast Council along the highway the first thing you see is the quarry. Existing approval for that quarry were from memory to retain the visual impact of the mountain sky line. This has clearly not been adhered to by the existing quarry and "an extension" to that quarry (even though it is a separate application will only make this visual impact worse.
4. **Pollution of the local waterways:** The site slopes toward the Yalimba Creek and the application proposes discharge of unspecified "clean" water to the local protected wetlands and Port Stephens Marine Park. Discharge must be prevented and water falling on the site

should be retained and used for dust prevention and mitigation, the water being lost to evaporation during dust mitigation procedures

5. **Animal Impact:** The area is habitat to Koalas and the proposed Quarry will reduce habitat and connection to associated habitat. When the highway upgrade was build a bridge was made over a dugout for the koalas to cross safely. Why would that have been made if there were no koalas. The surrounding areas are well known for echidnas as well. The Wallaby population has already been scared off by the noise & disruption to their habitat.
6. **Risk of low-level detention dams being overwhelmed:** The proposed detention dams for dirty and clean water are located close to the lower boundary and are relatively small. The current design would allow uncontrolled discharge of dirty and clean water in the event of a one in 50-year heavy rainfall event such as that which occurred on April 2015 and in June 2007. High rainfall events are becoming more frequent and stronger as the climate changes. Any new quarry must provide for heavy rainfall events. This quarry and the adjoining quarries are within 500m of the king tide watermark of a National Marine Park. How can anyone be allowed to have any runoff into these lungs and nursery of the marine park.
7. The list of flora provided in the EIS is incomplete and limited. I request an independent audit of all flora and old growth tree species to be undertaken before the project is considered for approval.

We live at "Warreen", The Branch Lane, The Branch 2425. We are not new comers to the area. We have owned are property for 35 years and are extremely concerned the way the existing quarry has been able to expand and really don't want to see another one joining onto it. Over this time the amount of wildlife in this area has certainly diminished.

Kind Regards



Stuart & Heather Fitzpatrick
21/5/19

