

Department of Planning & Environment
GPO BOX 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

21 May 2019

Dear Sirs,

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

I am writing to lodge my objection to the above 'proposed gravel quarry', because:

- **This 'proposed quarry' is seeking full creek discharge of their "dirty water" holding dams (sediment laden water) into Yalimbah Creek/creeks, flowing directly into Karuah River, flowing past oyster leases, tourism areas of Port Stephens (Blue Water Wonderland) and Marine Park. It is too late** when our local Creeks, Karuah River, Port Stephens, shows impacts of suspended rock particles, acid mine drainage and dead wildlife. Clean water and our mangroves are an important ecosystem & breeding ground to aquatic life and growing food for people.
- **Climate change has been recognised by the Land & Environment Court Judge Brian Preston 2018** regarding Gloucester Resources, Rocky Hill (McKinleys Coal) and therefore has set a precedent for other quarries/mines in this area and elsewhere. Therefore the 'proposed project' Karuah South Quarry should be rejected entirely.
- **Rainfall and Loss of Wildlife Habitat. There should be no removal of bushland/mountains where wildlife are in abundance. With so many of Australian wildlife going or on the edge of extinction, they need to be protected by our preservation of their habitat.** Clouds are drawn to this mountain range and rain clouds can move up the valley to areas and towns of The Bucketts Way at 12 Mile Creek (NSW Tourist Drive 2), The Branch Lane, Girvan, Limeburners Creek, Allworth Booral, Stroud, Stroud Road, Wards River, Craven, Stratford, Gloucester and further up the valley. It makes perfectly good sense to rule against this pending gravel quarry/mine and preserve all habitat and wildlife living in this area (offset in Perpetuity). Protecting the environment and not adding to the dreadful impacts from Hunter Quarries (areas 1 and 2 etc.).
- **Land, Water & Noise Pollution, impacting on the lives, health and properties of the residents and their livestock surrounding the area of the proposed Hunter Quarries:**
Any off property water flows into Mosquito Creek Catchment, Karuah River therefore there should be NO approvals granted for 'NEW QUARRIES', Karuah South Quarry or Hunter Quarries and NO approval to ANY quarries/mines to discharge 'dirty quarry/mine waste water' into Creeks impacting Creek systems of the Karuah River to Port Stephens, past oyster leases, Marine Park. **These entire projects must be rejected.**

The 'proposed quarry' is seeking operation times from 5am to 6pm Monday to Friday with maintenance 24 hours a day. Saturday 5am to 1pm with maintenance 24 hours a day. Hunter Quarries is approved to operate Monday to Friday 7am to 6pm, Saturday maintenance 7am to 1pm. People are already impacted by Hunter Quarries during operating hours (**noise, dust inside/outside house & silica dust**); tank water would have **gravel dust & silica particles**, (vibrations, crusher noise, blasting, truck movements, and equipment/noise). **Should Karuah South Quarry be approved on these times it will set a precedent for other quarries or mines to do the same and have a 5am start that would also impact neighbours.**

Adults & Children in Karuah area are impacted by dust/ (silica dust), noise and suffer nose bleeds all or most days of the week. The 'proposed project/quarry', also have declared at the

public meeting in Dec. they will NOT be covering their crushing plant. (This would reduce noise, dust impacts on people already impacted by HQ 1) & Hunter Quarries 2 was fined for exceeding dust & noise "Conditions of Consent" in 2018. (HQ2) and had to enclose their crusher in a building.

- **Objection to (any operation OR 24 hours a day): Should Karuah South Quarry be approved, this will set a 24 hr precedent for other quarries and mines to operate their maintenance 24 hours a day which must be rejected.** ICAG Inc says should the 24 hours a day be approved then ANY mines/quarries will have the ability to apply to the Department of Planning for a Modification. ICAG Inc's concern is that if this happens, mines and quarries could operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, in any part of their operation/mining/quarry or maintenance in the Karuah area, Blue Rock Close, The Branch Lane, impacts to Halloran Road.
- **Loss of Significant Pristine Bushland:** The areas of bushland to be removed then quarried/mined in Stage 1 & Stage 2 with Area 3 (page 5-43) being infrastructure, product stock pile & vegetated batter wall & Area 4 'Dirty Water Dam over Creek areas of 'Upper Yalimbah Creek'. The pristine bushland property approx. 22+ hectares, 50+ acres or more. **The bushland will be removed on almost the entire property to be impacted;** only the right corner of property, once 'Upper Yalimbah Creek' will be used as a discharge area for "sediment-laden water". Karuah South Quarry is seeking approval for all four areas of the property, which will be a serious disturbance of the natural environment, impacts, displacement & death to wildlife is imminent on this property & elsewhere by Hunter Quarries areas. If Karuah South Quarry is approved by Planning Dept. or Planning Assessment Commission (PAC). This Quarry is seeking in their EIS "dirty water" from holding dams "sediment laden water" will be discharged off site making its way through pipes under the Pacific Highway to Yalimbah Creek/Karuah River on South side of Pacific Highway.
- On this property there are approximately (60+) **400+ year old Eucalyptus habitat trees with hollows for wildlife and fig trees.** When some of these trees were seen by ICAG Inc. Committee approximately 5 years ago, they did not realise, while Michael Kiely was showing them around his property that he was seeking to operate a gravel quarry/mine on this part of his property. These trees were left by the old logging industry as seed trees, when logging first started hundreds of years ago. Michael Kiely (if approved will be part of the clear-felling of these trees). **ICAG Inc. says, "These giant trees having survived for hundreds of years, for this length of time, they must be protected forever by a "Tree Preservation Order". Trees with hollows, hundreds of years old cannot be mitigated/offset or have any bio-credits paid for 400+ year old gum trees, with hundreds of year old fig trees on the same property (not mentioned in the EIS at all). No amount of compensation from the mining/quarry/developer could EVER cover the value of these trees if they were felled & died, killing any wildlife in these hollows. Therefore this project must be refused approval entirely!** These Trees ARE OF - Local, Regional, NSW, Australia and World Wide Significance.
- Should this 'proposed project' be approved, **it will remove Lowland Rainforest, Endangered Ecological Community (EEC) listed under the Biodiversity Conservation Act of 2016. This area of Rainforest is also listed as Threatened Community under the Commonwealth EPBC Act.** Government Departments hand over flora on Government protection lists rapidly & constantly. No amount of mitigation/offset or compensation paid will compensate for the loss of this Rainforest area of Endangered Ecological Community. **Therefore this quarry must be rejected entirely.**
- Known Koalas, Quolls, Phascogales & other wildlife live on this unique bushland property including wildlife that have been pushed onto this property from impacts from Hunter Quarries 1 and Hunter Quarries 2 gravel/mined areas. **These wildlife and others are on 'Threatened, Vulnerable, Endangered', Government protection lists, which are being handed over on these properties shamelessly. In EIS "2.13.4.2 a total of 345 Koala (Phascogales cinereus) species credits would be required to offset impacts of the Project on Koala habitat". ICAG Inc. asks, "What does it cost for one Koala using the Species Credits? Is this all a Koala is worth in its natural bushland habitat environment? Our Koala population is diminishing and areas of bushland with Koala populations must be protected, preserved & not cleared for mining, quarries, and developments that clear bushland to the ground. This 'proposed quarry', must be rejected.**

- Should this 'proposed project' be approved, this will remove large tracks of intact bushland ecosystem, ground cover grasses/sedges, lamandra, and under-story shrubs, mid and upper-story/canopy. All of this will be removed and therefore impacts will be immediate and cause our precious wildlife to be displaced, injured and killed. **Wildlife deaths are going completely undocumented.** **Approval will also set a precedent of wildlife and their habitat continually being removed at a rapid rate in NSW and in this area of Karuah catchment' and elsewhere. Once the bushland and wildlife are gone, they are gone extinguished forever.** The entire property MUST be put into "Offset in Perpetuity". This property is more valuable for the wildlife/flora species on this property intact & not quarried/mined into oblivion. *Irresponsible housing/commercial developments also remove all bushland/wildlife into extinction.*
- In the EIS our bushland & rainforests are also for sale. Companies can buy vegetation credits called Ecosystem Credits; Securing Biodiversity Credits (page 2-43 and 2-44 of EIS). Our Government Departments are continuing to sign the death warrant of our natural environment, our bushland, rain forested areas and the EIS fails to document tree species that exist on this property.
- This 'proposed quarry' between (HQ 1) and (HQ 2). **This land is more valuable for Threatened, Vulnerable and Endangered Species Fauna/Flora on this property.** The entire property of the 'proposed project' should be 'Offset In Perpetuity'. (HQ 2) should NEVER have been given approval to operate, from any Government Departments, in a pristine bushland area, wildlife habitat area running the length of the Pacific Highway from Corner Branch Lane/Blue Gum Road, Pacific Highway North to Halloran Road.
- Despite EIS using (Highway as their excuse & justification any off site water no longer is part of Yalimbah Creek/s catchment). The 'proposed project site' is STILL in Yalimbah Creek/Karuah Catchment, flowing water through pipes under Pacific Highway. All Water on the North side of Pacific Highway where (HQ 1) & (HQ 2) & this 'proposed quarry seeking approval', finds its way to Bulga Creek/systems, Yalimbah/Creek systems. ALL quarries in rainfall events, overflowing "dirty water holding dams", full creek/to River discharge OR seeking approval to operate Karuah South Quarry, discharge water off site into 'our environment', downstream in Karuah River/Port Stephens.
- **The cumulative impacts from HQ1 (corner Branch Lane & Blue Gum Close), HQ2 North - (south of Halloran Road North Arm Cove on North side of Pacific Highway), 'HQ proposed Karuah Red' ('proposed NEW quarry pit on The Branch Lane) and Karuah South Quarry (submission period closes Tuesday 21st May 2019)** would with approvals/MODS, continue to remove further pristine bushland/wildlife habitat & continue killing wildlife in numbers going completely undocumented, seeking off site discharge.

Yours faithfully

Gillian Stone

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