



Port Stephens Koalas

Care. Education. Research.

23 May 2019

Department of Planning & Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001
20TH May, 2019

Attn: Anthony Barnes

Objection to Karuah South Quarry

Application number SSD-17- 8795

The Port Stephens Koala & Wildlife Preservation Society Ltd (trading as Port Stephens Koalas and abbreviated to PSK in this document) is the current embodiment of an organisation previously known as Hunter Koala Preservation Society (HKPS) that has been licensed by National Parks and Wildlife Service since 1987 as a wildlife rehabilitation organisation dedicated to koalas. PSK aims to provide the world best practice standards of care to sick, injured and orphaned koalas to give them the best opportunity to be returned to the wild, while supporting research and collaboration to preserve their habitat to ensure that future generations may continue to enjoy seeing wildlife in their natural setting.

PSK is making this submission in defence of healthy environments and koala habitat, which is disappearing at an increasing rate all over Australia.

Karuah South Quarry formerly Kiely's Karuah Quarry, is seeking approval to open up a new gravel quarry in bushland of the Karuah area, on the north side of Pacific Highway. The project is also seeking discharge approval for sediment laden water from the quarry's holding dams to flow into Yalimbah Creek and the systems flowing to the Karuah River and through to Port Stephens and its Marine Park. This discharged water has the potential to contaminate Port Stephens waterways including mangroves, oyster leases, and the aquaculture industry that depends on the pristine waters of the bay for high quality produce. This discharge also has the potential to spoil the clear waters of Port Stephens and consequently the tourist industry in this Blue Water Wonderland. The health of the Port Stephens Great Lakes Marine Park will be placed in jeopardy.

An aerial photograph of this area, shows that the other gravel mine Hunter Quarries 1 (2012) and HQ 2 (approved in virgin bushland in 2014), have destroyed large areas of bushland and this new quarry, should it be approved, will continue destroying bushland areas of up to 22ha, killing wildlife in numbers undocumented and impacting creeks and river systems of the Karuah Catchment.

Port Stephens Koalas is very concerned at the removal of bushland and wildlife that is currently on Threatened, Vulnerable and Endangered Government Species Lists, including Koalas, Quolls,

Port Stephens Koala & Wildlife Preservation Society Ltd

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Phascogale, Wallabies, many bird species including Eagles, Owls, Giant Barred Frogs, micro bats and other bat species.

Karuah South Quarry seeks to obtain "Species Credits" as compensation for loss of wildlife and "Eco System Credits securing Biodiversity Credits (Pg 2-43 and 2-44 of EIS) for plant species. 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.

Noise and dust impacts from operations for the extended hours proposed, and 24 hour maintenance, are also a major concern for wild life populations, particularly koalas, as are the traffic implications of substantial heavy truck movements.

For these reasons Port Stephens Koalas objects to this Development Application.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Carmel Northwood', written in dark ink.

Carmel Northwood

President

Phone: 0422 225437